Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Would you agree to the marine monument proposal if the CNMI regains local control of its submerged lands?

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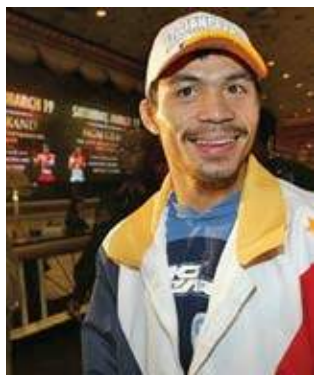
to cast your vote.

39 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE



Title Fight

Manny Pacquiao must cough up $130,000 within 15 days or he will be stripped of his World Boxing Council title.

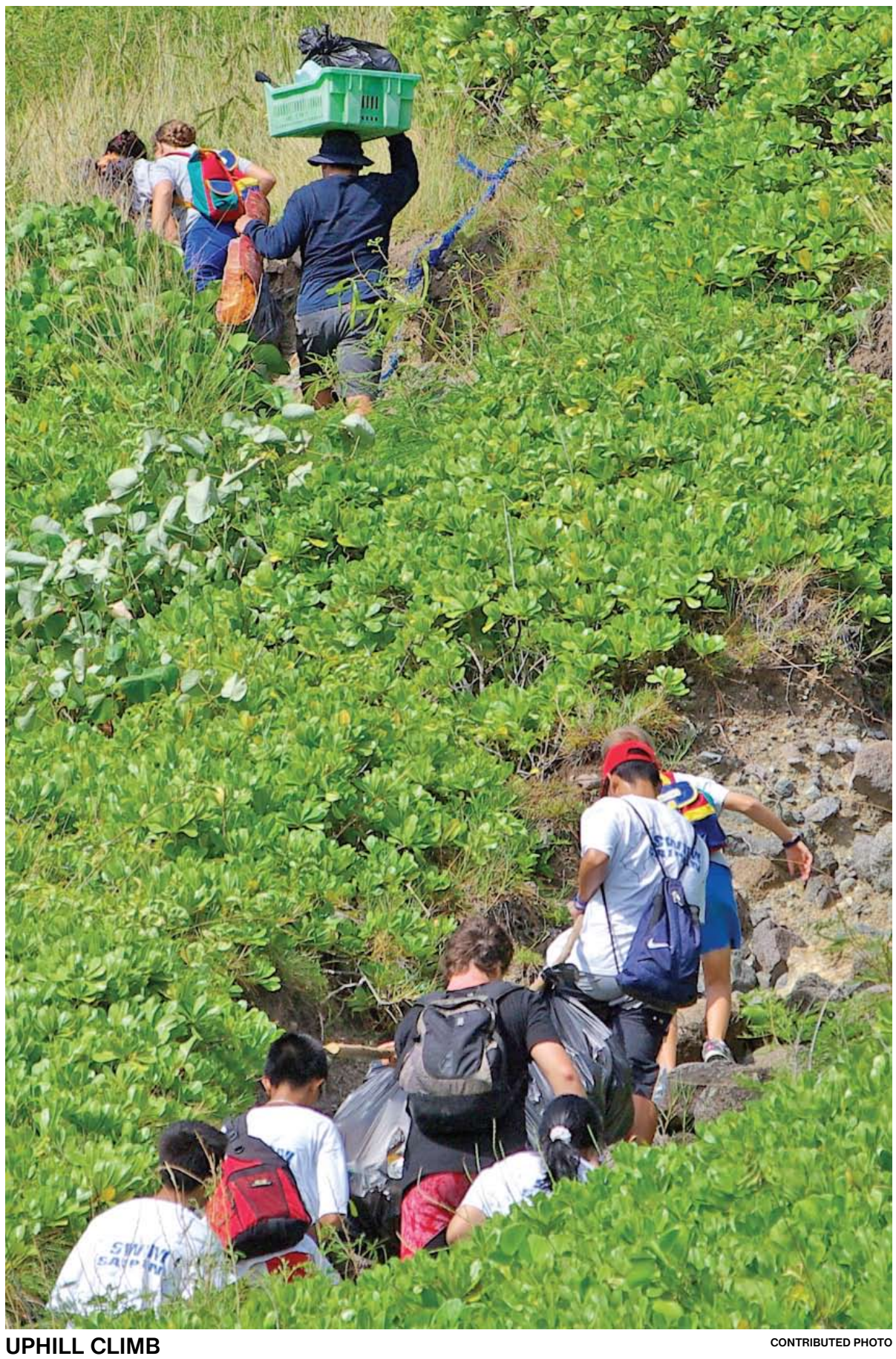
MAHARLIKA...Page 12

Record Viewers

A record-setting 70 million-plus viewers watched election returns Tuesday night, which proved to be historic.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Baby Web sites shut down



UPHILL CLIMB CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Swim Club haul trash and marine debris from Forbidden Island after an adopt-a-beach activity. The club members removed 120 lbs of trash. SCC has committed to adopt Wing Beach, beginning January 2009 until December 2009.

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Two Web sites advertising to Japanese and Chinese women to have their babies in the CNMI in order for the children to gain U.S. citizenship have shut down.

Saipanbaby.com has a note on the Web site in Japanese stating the website has been suspended.

Babysaipan.com has a similar message.

The two Web sites were advertising that, for a cost of $15,000 to $40,000, women could come to the CNMI to give birth. Women would stay in the Commonwealth for two to three months before giving birth at the Commonwealth Health Center.

See BABY on Page 4

Fitial donated $4K to McCain, RNC

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Fitial

Although Gov. Benigno Fitial earlier said that, as far as his administration was concerned, it did not matter if a Republican or Democrat won the U.S. presidential race, records show he was supporting Republican nominee John McCain.

Federal Election Commission records show Fitial donated $2,000 to committees to elect McCain. On Aug. 31, Fitial donated $1,000 to the McCain Victory

See FITIAL on Page 4

'Muchacho' remark dismays RP consul

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Maximo

Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Maximo expressed disappointment yesterday over Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo's reported statement in court where he called a Filipino defendant *"muchacho."*

"Coming from someone I respect and have a high regard for, I'm disappointed by Judge Govendo's remarks,"

See MUCHACHO on Page 4

Michelle Villaraza: Saipan Singing Superstar champ. **PAGE 2**

After 32 years, Guam Greyhound shuts down. **PAGE 5**

See COATS on Page 4

Local

Michelle Villaraza: Saipan Singing Superstar champ

It was a night of glitz and glamour—a shining moment for 25-year-old Michele Villaraza, who bested 15 other grand finalists to become the new Saipan Singing Superstar.

As the champion of the singing contest's second edition, Villaraza won for herself $1,000 cash, $475 worth of facial care from Macatangay DermHealth and a bottle of Alize. She also won a brand new cell phone from PTI for being the PTI Text Star. She garnered a total of 16,279 text votes from her supporters.

Villaraza, lead vocalist for the Soulful Acoustic band and an employee of Villaroyal Pawnshop and RNV Construction, was crowned the champion last night at the Club V of Saipan Grand Hotel. Her victory came after a grueling elimination process, during which 40 percent of the criteria were the text vote results, while 60 percent were from a series of performances.

Villaraza's winning piece was a Lea Salonga original titled *Journey*, complete with a multimedia inspired production number featuring a video presentation of her performances during the eliminations and the Week 1 to 3 of the grand finals series. Before that, she came onstage singing an acoustic version of Aerosmith's *I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing*.

REY BELGADO

The incoming and outgoing Saipan Singing Superstar, Michele Villaraza, left, and Lala Nodado.

REY BELGADO

The 16 Grand Finalist of the Saipan Singing Superstar Year 2.

Oscar Yema, the director of the show, said, he is very happy with the outcome. "All 16 contestants did a great job in showing that they are truly deserving to be stars," he added.

Marvin Espeleta garnered the second spot with a hip-hop number, complete with backup dancers occupying the whole stage of Club V and even on the dance floor. Espeleta brought down the house with loud cheers from his fans and supporter. He placed third in the PTI Text Star Category, garnering a total of 11,101 text votes. He was also given a special award as the Most Promising Male Star.

Charie Ramos got the 3rd place trophy and the Female Concert Star. Although she didn't have elaborate sets and props, her simple black gown was enough ornament, her golden voice captivating the crowd who fell silent as she sang.

It was the same case with the fourth placer, Janee Babauta. The youngest among the top six contestant performed solo on stage, boasting of a voice and the looks of a superstar. She also has the fans, winning 2nd place in the PTI Text Star category with 14, 325 votes.

Gigi Hernandez, the recipient of the Production Number Hall of Fame, surprised the audience with a mini-concert performance—a mellow song with children as backup dancers followed by an upbeat song and backup dancers to complete the routine.

The production number that got the most applause was the *Greased Lighting*-inspired performance of Ricky Custodio, recipient of the Mr. Heartthrob award and 6th placer. Custodio rode a Harley Davidson on stage for a dramatic entrance. He also got the PTI Text Star Hall of Fame award for topping the text votes for three weeks.

The entire production featured a live camera backstage, with the show's host Brad Ruszala doing one-on-one interviews with each contestant. A split screen was on the projector, courtesy of Digital Motion Video Production.

Ruszala also did an impromptu song number with a live band. Other productions numbers featured a dramatic entrance on a carousel and high-energy dance numbers from the backup dancers and the contestants.

The Saipan Singing Superstar Awards night was a culminating event, but is also the start of future variety shows featuring the champions of the singing contest. ***(PR)***

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BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Birthday greetings go out to Chicko Hensus P. Arurang. "May you have a wonderful and enjoyable birthday at Fiesta Resort & SPA. Happy birthday, Chicko." Greetings come from your dad, mom, and your two brothers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to 4 CMC, Div. 7, Section 7306 (i) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Oceania Insurance Corporation is making its intention known of increasing the company's paid-up capital and surplus in accordance with this statute.

HENRY TORRES
General Manager
OIC Marianas Insurance Corporation
1st Flr. Chong's Bldg.
Pale Arnold Rd., Gualo Rai
PMB 229 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950

Arts council to hold first music festival on Saipan

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

In an effort to revive and promote the sounds that people in the Marianas are familiar with, the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture will be holding the first ever Music Festival on Saipan.

CCAC acting director Ramona Rebuenog said this pilot project is tentatively set for the first week of December. She said they are planning to hold the event at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Cecilia Taitano-Celes, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary, said they would make sure that this event would involve the legendary as well as current artists in the CNMI.

"This would showcase how the music of the Marianas really sound. We are coordinating this with the Division of Youth Services since we will be tapping young singers to be strongly involved in this activity," Taitano-Celes said.

She said this is an opportunity for them to perform live in front of an audience.

"It's an opportunity to break the ice. Such event would encourage them to become professionals," Taitano-Celes said.

Some of the legendary musicians in the CNMI include Rep. Candy Taman and three members of the board of directors of the Arts Council, David Peter, Joseph Diaz and Joe Limes. She said this would be a time to remember their talents and the chance for upcoming musicians to take center stage.

"It's part of promoting the Pacific culture but it would be all about music in the Marianas. This is a challenge because we want to know if it will attract attention," Taitano-Celes said.

She said they would be allowing vendors to sell their products at the Festival but such items would be strictly about music and would be limited.

The Council is also planning to conduct music courses in the future. Information about this would be disseminated during the festival.

ETC DONATIONS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Koblerville Elementary School presented Appreciation Awards during its PTSA meeting on Nov. 05, 2008 to private businesses and companies that donated Educational Tax Credits to the school: Han Nam Supermarket, Pink House, Rozal/Zest Enterprises, Barny's Pizza, LC Corporation, LDK Incorporation, Yuta Corporation, Hong's Barber Shop, and MGA Business.

Date set for 7th Stamp Rally Campaign

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Paseo de Marianas Promoters Inc. said it is ready to hold the seventh Stamp Rally Campaign from December 2008 to April 6, 2009. The event used to be held in July to September.

During this event, tourists as well as local consumers who spend one dollar or more on food or merchandise gets a stamp card on each visit to a participating business. PDM said a total of four stamps on each stamp card could be exchanged for a giveaway. The giveaway items are available at the PDM Information Center in Kinpachi Restaurant.

Every family who brings kids to eat in any of the participating restaurants will get a free art kit to draw on. The kids will be given crayons and each child will be given a chance to draw anything he or she likes best and this would be posted in a display area for passersby, especially tourists, to appreciate.

The organizers' aim is to promote art awareness among children aged 10 and below.

This event is done twice a year, first in the summer and the second in December.

Next month's Stamp Rally Campaign will coincide with PDM's activities for the Christmas holiday season, including the third Christmas tree decoration contest and the second drawing contest for the schoolchildren of Tinian and Rota.

PDM's Sonia Siwa said a total of 12 elementary schools have already signified their intention to join the Christmas tree decorating contest while the Office of Aging will be decorating their own entry as a special participant.

Tourist will have an opportunity to directly participate in the fun by writing in a red ribbon their wishes for the holidays, which would be tied to the giant Christmas tree that would be erected at the Paseo de Marianas.

House allocates $1.34M for tobacco programs

The House of Representatives has voted unanimously to appropriate $1.34 million of tobacco control funds for fiscal year 2009.

The bill, now awaiting action in the Senate, appropriates funds to programs designed to prevent tobacco use and alcohol abuse in the Commonwealth.

Specifically, the bill provides $900,000 to the Department of Public Health; for the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program ($535,000); the Community Guidance Center's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services ($250,000); mammogram film reading and interpretation ($39,000); the purchase of a network-attached storage for the Cancer Registry ($1,000); the Cancer Coalition ($50,000); and the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program ($25,000).

The bill also appropriates $325,000 to the Public School System for the development of a comprehensive school health education program, for Project Familia, and for the Teen Talk program.

In addition, $39,000 was set aside for the youth centers on Saipan, and $75,000 each to Rota and Tinian's Tobacco and Substance Abuse prevention programs at their respective health centers.

The new legislation updates another House-passed bill, which proposed to fund PSS' comprehensive coordinated school health education program out of the Tobacco Control Fund, and which now sits in the Senate committee for review. Most of the funding that had been originally proposed for the PSS program in HB 16-120 was preserved in HB 16-129. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT PRINIPONEN ATKILONTANO PUBLIKO

Segun gi lai 15-2, I Depattamenton Tano, segun i LaiPubliko 15-2, ha anununsia planon atkilon tano publiko giya Tinian, Commonwealth i Sankattan siha na Islas. Todo man-interesao libre munahalom opinion `sino infotmasion pot i mapropopone na planonuson tano publiko. Maprebeniye lokue isigiente siha na infotmasion para benefision publiko tat komo:

1. I tineteka na tano publiko inembrarasa 300 hegtarias. Trabiha ti mamimide este na lugat lao i uminteres umadelanta este na tano publiko pot para u hatsaye casino hotel yan primera na golf course giya Piña, Tinian.. Kopian lugat este na sitiu gaige gi Depattamenton Tano ni libre maina nu i publiku.

2. I para u inatkilai era i Neo Goldwings Paradise, un kotporasion guine giya Marianas. I membron direktot siha i sigiente: Hyun Myung In, presidente/tresurario yan Kwidong Woo, segundo presidente yan sekretario.

3. I mapropopone na atkilon tano publiko manegosio as Señor Kwidong Woo.

4. I para u atkila i lugat para u usa gimahatsan fasilidat hotel casino, golf course yan otro siha na fasilidat.

   I tetminonestena kontrata para 25 años ya siña ma-ekstende talo 15 años.

5. Libre hao mamaisen kopianestena plano gi Depattamenton Tano ni gaige gi segundo bibienda gi Joeten Dandan, Saipan; offisinanTano Publiko giya Luta yan Tinian.

6. I Depattamenton Tano taya otro plano ha resibe gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Piña, Tinian.

7. I Sekretarion Depattamenton Tano Publiko siña ha resibe todo ninahalom opinion yan materiat pot este na proposito uttimo gi Novembre 24, 2008 gi todo Offisinan Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Tchúlúyól, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyghiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ye ebwe elebwughúw toria (300 hectares), iye rebwe tilifischi ghatchúw bwelle investors rebwe ayúúw leliyel casino me golf resort iye e ghil ngáli bwuleyil Pina mewóól Tchúlúyól elapeló me ngáre eghús. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ye Tchúlúyól ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Neo Gold Wings Paradise Saipan Corporation d.b.a. NGP Casino and Hotel. Schóól Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellol corporation nge Myung In Hyun me Kwidong Woo.

   Samwoolul (President/Treasurer) corporation nge Myung In Hyun. Vice President me Sekkretório nge Kwidong Woo.

iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Kwidong Woo.

iv. Schóól akkilon nge ebwe ayúúw me mwóghutáágheli casino mellól hotel me golf resort me akkááw wiisal(fasilidóód).

   Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

   Pomwol akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél faluw (value of the property).

v. Emmwel bwe tilighial akkilon yeel óubwe bwughil mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Piña, Tchúlúyól.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal schagh Nobiembre (November) 24, 2008 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyol.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

The Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent, under Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, to lease certain public lands on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is about 300 hectares that has yet to be surveyed to which investor plans to lease for purposes of building a casino hotel and golf resort situated in the Piña Area on Tinian. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for review.

ii. The prospective lessee is Neo Goldwings Paradise, Co. Ltd. a CNMI corporation. The Board of Directors of the corporation are Hyun Myung In, president/treasurer and Kwidong Woo, vice president/secretary.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Kwidong Woo.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a casino hotel and golf resort and related facilities.

   The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

   The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land at Piña, Tinian.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before November 24, 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Yumul: Enough with tax breaks for investor

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The investor behind the multimillion dollar construction project at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort should not be given any more tax breaks than it already is given, according to a Saipan lawmaker.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul has introduced a resolution urging the Commonwealth Development Authority to deny a request to add benefits under the qualifying certificate program to Saipan LauLau Development.

Earlier this year, CDA and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial approved a plan to provide up to $18 million in tax relief for the $68.8 million golf hotel, or "golftel," a complex with condominium-style apartments for golf tourists. The tax relief ceiling is significantly less than the $27.7 million the resort had requested.

According to Yumul, Saipan LauLau Development and the governor are now asking CDA to amend the qualifying certificate to increase the incentive cap. In response, CDA has begun efforts to amend its regulations and allow for reconsideration of an approved qualifying certificate.

"We're basically bending over backwards to accommodate [Saipan Laulau Development]," Yumul said in an interview. "As chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, I am concerned because all of these tax breaks affect government revenue."

But press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. maintained that the resort deserves more incentives, pointing to the magnitude of its investment and the increasing number of flights that its parent company, Kumho Asiana, is bringing to Saipan.

Yumul

"The governor considers Kumho Asiana an anchor investor. He wants to provide every reasonable incentive to encourage them to continue investing in the CNMI," Reyes said.

In his resolution, Yumul argues that the government has more than shown its support for the investor. He notes that the Legislature has granted the resort a new 40-year lease agreement for 161 hectares of land at a rental rate of $103,000 a year, a substantial decrease from the original rental amount of $384,000. He adds that the investor has been given relief from all applicable taxes, except for alcoholic beverage tax.

"[T]he current benefits such as the low rental rate … and the benefits of the current qualifying certificate granted to Saipan LauLau Development Inc., are sufficient as an investment incentive," the resolution states.

"Granting additional terms to the initial qualifying certificate to Saipan LauLau Development Inc., in addition to the benefits already granted to it, will only add to the burden of the CNMI's economy," it adds.

According to a report issued by the resort, the CNMI stands to see an estimated $387 million worth of direct and indirect economic benefits after the golf project's completion.

FIRE CADETS LEI OGUMORO

Fire cadets from the 9th Fire Cycle Academy undergo field training in Emergency Vehicle Operation Course, taught by Sgt. Anthony Macaranas.

Legislature OKs federalization task force

The Senate has adopted a joint resolution with the House of Representatives calling for the creation of a task force that will serve as the Legislature's liaison on immigration federalization issues.

All of the senators, except Sen. Jude Hofschneider, who was absent from the Thursday session, voted in favor of the resolution. They said the Legislature must get involved in the crafting of the new immigration regulations, which will be go into effect in less than seven months.

According to the resolution, the Legislature wants "to be an informed participant, in collaboration with concerned public and private entities, in the development of [U.S. Public Law] 110-229 regulations at they pertain to the CNMI."

The resolution requires the Senate president and the House speaker to appoint members to the task force. The task force should get organized within five days of the resolution becoming adopted by both houses of the Legislature. Its job will be to conduct public hearings, make official inquiries on federalization, and keep the Legislature informed of any development in the drafting of the regulations.

Private sector organizations such as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands formed similar committees even before the federalization effort became law, in a bid to ensure that local employers will continue to have access to needed foreign workers under the new labor and immigration system.

Meanwhile, the Fitial administration has shunned efforts to negotiate with the U.S. government on the pending federal takeover of the Commonwealth's labor and immigration. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who is suing the federal government over the labor provisions of the immigration act, has repeatedly stated that the time is gone for negotiation. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

FITIAL

From Page 1

2008 campaign. His most recent donation was on Sept. 26. He donated $1,000 to John McCain 2008, Inc.

McCain lost the presidency to Democratic bet Barack Obama on Tuesday.

Before McCain was named the Republic Party's nominee, Fitial donated $2,750 to the Republican National Committee. The money then went to help McCain and Sarah Palin as they ran for president and vice-president.

Fitial donated the money in three installments:

- $750 on July 31, 2006
- $1,000 on Oct. 13, 200
- $1,000 on June 25, 2007

Also, records indicate Fitial donated $2,000 to George W. Bush, via the Bush-Cheney '04 Primary committee, in April 2004.

Since 1997, Fitial has contributed $17,290.00 to political committees and $2,000 to joint fundraising committees.

During a press conference last week, Fitial acknowledged the impact of U.S. politics on Commonwealth affairs, but said that having a Democrat or a Republican in the White House does not matter as far as his administration is concerned.

"I don't have a problem since I'm Covenant," said, Fitial, who helped establish the Commonwealth's Covenant Party in 2001 after many years of membership with the NMI Republican Party.

After Obama won the U.S. presidency, the governor congratulated the president-elect.

"I congratulate president-elect Obama and I look forward to establishing good working relationships with his new administration. I am optimistic that Obama's victory will lead to positive change for the people of the CNMI, given president-elect Obama's history and relationships with the people of Hawaii and the Asia-Pacific region," Fitial said.

Cursillo Encounter kicks off at Palms

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Participants in the 20th Asia-Pacific Cursillo Encounter, which the CNMI is hosting for the second time in 10 years, will wrap up their two-day affair late in the afternoon today at the Palms Resort Saipan in Tanapag.

The 80 delegates from six nations, including Australia, Vietnam, Korea, Taiwan, Guam and the CNMI, began the Encounter yesterday with inspirational speeches in line with this year's theme, "Renewing Our Commitment: Be a friend, make a friend, and bring a friend to Christ."

Cursillo spiritual director Rev. Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez, who is the acting president of the CNMI Cursillo Movement, recollected how the movement has evolved over the years.

He said the pilgrimage to the shrine of St. James at the historic Cathedral of Santiago in Spain has a special connection to the early beginnings of the Cursillo Movement.

"Our history as a movement can be traced back to the spiritual renewal activities on the Spanish island of Majorca. The late Eduardo Bonnin, our movement's founder, together with other lay persons, led in preparing young men for pilgrimage to the shrine of St. James at Compostela," Jimenez said.

He said this preparation took the form of little courses in Christianity, hence the word "Cursillo."

Saipan was chosen to host the gathering again during the 19th APE in Sydney, where Jimenez was one of the delegates from the CNMI in 2006.

He said the Saipan delegates were inspired by the theme of that event, thus reflecting this year's theme.

Saipan also hosted the 13th APE in 1999.

Expounding on the importance of the theme, Jimenez said, "We need to be a friend before we can make friends with fellow pilgrims."

The Cursillo Movement is a ministry within the Catholic Church that started in Spain in the early 1940s.

The name Cursillo, which literally means "a short course," is associated with the three-day Weekend, which is only one aspect of the Cursillo Movement, where participants learn some basic courses in Christianity. Members of the Movement meet regularly for prayer, sharing, leadership modules and apostolic work.

The first Cursillo Weekend in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa took place on July 2-5, 1993, at the Korean Catholic Center.

With the guidance of Bishop Tomas A. Camacho and lay volunteers from the CNMI and Guam, participation has grown to where there are more than 200 members of the Cursillo Movement at present in the CNMI.

On the last day of the Encounter tomorrow, all participants will attend the 9am Mass at Mount Cathedral.

MUCHACHO

From Page 1

Maximo told *Saipan Tribune*.

In light of the U.S. nation having just gone through a historic and admirable electoral process, he said Govendo's outburst "comes like the proverbial fly in the ointment."

A decision issued Wednesday by Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona, quoted Govendo as calling defendant Roger S. Castillo "muchacho" and stating he wishes he could "get rid of locals" involved in domestic violence but that he can't because they're Americans.

Govendo, as a Family Court judge, had also stated he would recommend Castillo's prosecution and that he would make it his "personal journey" to make sure that Castillo leaves the CNMI.

Maximo said that irrespective of the issues of Castillo's case, he wished Govendo had been more circumspect and measured in his remarks "which cast aspersions on Filipinos."

"I'm consoled by the fact the Judiciary does not share his extreme views," Maximo said.

In her order, Manglona said Govendo's statements were in violation of the "principles of decorum and temperance that the Judicial Canons seek to promote."

"The judge's tirade does appear to defy the mandates of Judicial Canon 3B(9), which states in part, that 'A judge shall not, while a proceeding is pending or impending in any court, make any public comment that might reasonably be expected to affect its outcome or impair its fairness…[or] that might substantially interfere with a fair trial or hearing,'" Manglona said.

Filipinos generally find the word *muchacho* degrading as it means slaves or houseboys.

When Govendo issued the statements, Castillo had no lawyer and his criminal case was still pending.

BABY

From Page 1

Both Web sites touted the 14th Amendment and birthright citizenship as reasons to have babies in the CNMI.

Melvin Grey, director for the CNMI's Division of Immigration, earlier said that the practice is not illegal so there is nothing CNMI or U.S. Immigration officials could do to stop it from happening.

He said it is a fairly common occurrence for women from foreign countries to come to Saipan to have their children.

Two similar Web sites, advertising services to Korean women to have babies in Guam, were also shut down recently.

After 32 years, Guam Greyhound shuts down

CHAMORRO WORDSMITHS NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Members of a committee to revise the 33-year old Chamorro-English Dictionary review entries for a new edition during a teleconference yesterday with linguist Sandra Chang from the University of California–Sta. Cruz. The three-year project is funded by a National Science Foundation grant to the NMI Humanities Council. The project is a collaborative project with UC-SC. Language expert Dr. Liz Rechebei, standing at left, said a reference grammar that would be separate from the oral history part of the project, would be initiated by Sandra Chang.

TAMUNING, Guam—After thirty-two years as a visitor attraction and entertainment venue in Guam, the Guam Greyhound is closing effective immediately, according to a statement issued yesterday by its owner.

Guam Greyhound owner John Baldwin of Bridge Capital LLC said all activities, including bingo and greyhound racing, are being suspended, and most employees will be laid off as of yesterday, Nov. 7.

Despite the new investment of millions of dollars on improvements to the facility in the past two years, and a number of innovations, promotional programs and marketing efforts, Baldwin said the business is not profitable.

"Guam Greyhound has a wonderful staff, a large number of whom have been with the company for many years, and I am very sorry to have to take this step," Baldwin stated. " Guam has declining tourism and this drop in tourist numbers has really hurt Guam Greyhound."

Baldwin said the property is being listed with Chris Felix of Century 21 and Janet Calvo of Today's Realty for $15,900,000. This includes the track and Duty Free leased facilities, as well as excess land. He added that he will consider joint ventures with parties interested in re-opening the facility or developing it into some other kind of business, as well as an outright sale of the business. Those parties should contact one of the listing agents with their ideas, or contact EJ Calvo at ejc@bcguam.com, or Jon Anderson, at jaa@bccnmi.com.

Guam Greyhound first opened for dog racing in August, 1977. Over the years hundreds of thousands of tourists and residents have patronized the track, contributing millions to the Government of Guam in taxes and fees and adding a unique attraction to the variety of entertainment options available to our visitors. Baldwin purchased the track in March of 2006. ***(PR)***

DC, US territories' quarter program to start in January

Starting in 2009, the U.S. Mint will begin a program known as the District of Columbia and United States Territories Quarter Program. Under the program circulation commemorative quarter dollar coins will be issued to honor the remaining U.S. jurisdictions that are not states.

Quarters will be issued for the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Similar to the preceding State Quarters series, each coin will feature a distinct reverse design. Each design will contain images and themes which are emblematic of the District of Columbia and each U.S. territory. The design selection process includes consultation with the chief executive of D.C. and each territory, consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts, and review by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee. The Secretary of the Treasury has final approval for each design.

The design selection process usually includes several candidate designs before the final selections are decided.

The Puerto Rico quarter proposed designs include a depiction of the Governor's residence, a fortress parapet with the national flower, or the Arecibo Observatory. American Samoa's proposed designs include depiction of a man holding a dried coconut cup used in the ava ceremony, a collection of items representative of American Samoa, and some of the same items with the coastline in the background.

Some quarter designs have already been selected by residents or other responsible figures. The Secretary of the Treasury does have final approval over all designs, however he will usually agree with the design recommendation reached through the selection process.

Washington, D.C.'s candidate designs included depictions of Frederick Douglas, Benjamin Banneker, and Duke Ellington. By popular vote. D.C. residents selected the Duke Ellington design.

Guam's design was also chosen by popular vote includes an outline of the island, a Flying Proa, and a stone Latte. The design for the U.S. Virgin Islands quarter features the Banana Quit, Yellow Cedar flower, and an outline of the islands. The design for the Northern Mariana Islands features a Latte stone, coconut trees, a sailing vessel, and native plants and birds.

The new quarters will be issued for circulation starting in 2009, released in equal intervals throughout the year. ***(Michael Zielinski/American Chronicle)***

2 NMC students to be awarded scholarships

TUMON, Guam—On April 26, 2008, First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* named Julienne Rose Perez Duenas, physical therapist and owner/clinical director of S.O.A.R (Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation), the winner of the third annual Businesswoman of the Year award. This Maga'haga (Chamorro term for princess) Award recognizes businesswomen who have made a difference and have "raised the bar" in the field in which they are involved.

Proceeds from the awards gala were donated to the University of Guam, the Guam Community College and the Northern Marianas College on Saipan for scholarship programs that encourage students to become successful businesspeople and to contribute to society.

Representatives from both First Hawaiian Bank and Glimpses Publications reviewed the scholarship applications. Applicants for the Businesswoman of the Year scholarship program were judged on grades, involvement in the community and potential to become successful businesspeople.

Two scholarship recipients from the Northern Marianas College will be announced and presented with scholarship checks on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 1:30pm at the First Hawaiian Bank Gualo Rai Branch on Saipan.

A separate presentation will take place on Guam where seven scholarship recipients from the University of Guam and Guam Community College will be announced and presented with scholarship checks.

Tinian Service Station Business Opportunity

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. the local affiliate of leading global petroleum company ExxonMobil, is seeking offers to own and operate a service station in Tinian.

If you are willing:
- To commit and devote full time and best efforts to the day-to-day operations of the business
- To demonstrate successful management of a retail business
- To hire and train a team to sell quality products under a premier brand name

And you have:
- A minimum of two years experience in retail, sales, finance, administration, or other relevant fields
- Organizational discipline and experience in supervising and motivating a team of employees
- Technical aptitude – efficient use of computers
- A desire to provide superior customer service
- Access to capital and a good credit history

We want to hear from you. Don't miss this chance to start your own business. Applications from interested parties must be submitted no later than **November 18, 2008** to:

Tom Anitok
Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc.
P.O. Box 367, Saipan, MP 96952

Application packs can be obtained from the Mobil Tinian Bulk Plant office or Mobil Saipan Terminal Office
Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

Mobil
We're drivers too.

WANTED

Local Handicrafts, Souvenirs, Gifts & Young Fashion Suppliers

Please Bring Samples or Photos of Products & Quantities Available On Island to Star Sands Plaza (Next to DFS Saipan) on November 7, 8, 9 and 10 between 8:00am to 5:00 pm

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Inspiring words

In an election that will take a prominent place in American history, the speeches delivered Tuesday night by the winner and the loser are worthy of note. John McCain's concession speech showed a side of his character that had been missing for months, while Barack Obama's victory address expressed sentiments seldom uttered by a U.S. president in decades.

McCain was so upright, gracious and inspiring in defeat that he was nearly unrecognizable. Was this the same candidate whose scattershot attack machine had slimed his opponent, this newspaper, urban dwellers, prominent scholars and anyone else who, as judged by his campaign, could inspire fear and mistrust in Middle America? McCain on Tuesday took the first steps in making up for his stunningly divisive campaign by offering profound words of unity and healing. It was this more moderate and hopeful version of McCain that prompted the Los Angeles Times to endorse him in the Republican primary, and it makes us wonder if the election's outcome might have been different had we seen more of it over the last three months.

Obama's victory speech was equally gracious to his opponent, and equally unifying. But it contained something else that raised an eyebrow, a theme he has mentioned before in stump speeches but that took on special resonance now that he's the president-elect.

"This victory alone is not the change we seek," Obama said. "It is only the chance for us to make that change. And that cannot happen if we go back to the way things were. It can't happen without you, without a new spirit of service, a new spirit of sacrifice. So let us summon a new spirit of patriotism, of responsibility, where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves but each other."

The notion that patriotism equates to a willingness to sacrifice for the nation hearkens back to John F. Kennedy's inaugural address, but we haven't heard it much since. That may be because Jimmy Carter gave self-sacrifice a bad name. His 1979 "malaise" speech—given at a time when, as now, the country was facing twin economic and energy crises—is often blamed for darkening the nation's mood and worsening its woes. And yet the country ultimately benefited from the belt-tightening and energy conservation measures Carter promoted.

Since 1980, the more popular political strategy has been to promise Americans everything while asking them to give nothing. The results are clear. Our leaders cut taxes even while sending our troops to fight two Middle Eastern wars, causing the national debt to skyrocket. Fearing that fuel-efficiency mandates on vehicles would reduce choices for consumers, they failed to crack down on Detroit, contributing to an abrupt rise in oil prices. Unwilling to derail the gravy train for the financial services industry and real estate speculators, they failed to regulate the home mortgage market, resulting in today's economic meltdown.

Real leadership means having the courage to ask voters to sacrifice, and the skill to make them understand why doing so is ultimately in their best interest. Only time will tell if Obama is such a leader, but the signs are better than they've been for a long while.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Transition advice from someone who's been there

By WARREN CHRISTOPHER
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Christopher, secretary of State from 1993 to 1997, was transition director for President-elect Clinton after the 1992 election.

The work of the president-elect has begun. There is no time to savor victory, no time to ease into the job. Two hot wars and the greatest economic crisis of our time have combined to create an unprecedented sense of urgency. The oft-repeated advice to hit the ground running isn't very helpful when that ground is roiled by violent seismic activity.

Barack Obama plainly anticipated the need for immediate action to deal with these extraordinary challenges. Well before Election Day, he selected John Podesta, former chief of staff to President Clinton, to prepare for the transition. In other times, such a move would have been regarded as presumptuous. Today, given what might be the toughest transition in decades, a more realistic view has taken hold.

Early planning wasn't always as important as it is today. But the adoption in 1932 of the 20th Amendment, moving inauguration day from March 4 to Jan. 20 and thereby shaving more than 40 days off the transition, produced a sea change. That left only 2 1/2 months.

In 1992, Clinton asked Vernon Jordan to chair his transition and me to be transition director, a role I filled until I was designated secretary of State in mid-December. We did some things right, and we did some things not quite so right. I offer a few observations and suggestions based on that experience.

The transition process is an enormous undertaking. When the new staff arrives at the White House in late January, they will be met by empty desks and barren file cabinets, as well as enormous expectations and immediate deadlines. By then, the president is expected to have selected all 15 members of his Cabinet as well as his White House senior staff. The new president must give a speech on Inauguration Day that sets out his policy agenda and submit a trillion-dollar-plus budget to Congress soon after.

In 1992, Clinton lingered a bit in choosing a White House team and did not appoint Mack McLarty as his chief of staff until mid-December. The delay, historians say, might have accounted for Clinton's rocky first year. President-elect Obama's decision Wednesday to offer the job of chief of staff to Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill., shows he is determined not to make similar mistakes.

In the weeks ahead, as he chooses the key economic and foreign policy players in his administration, the president-elect should focus on creating a team rather than an assemblage of prima donnas. Clinton brought together a first-rate economic group (Lloyd Bentsen, Robert Rubin, Leon Panetta, Laura Tyson and Mickey Kantor) that worked well on highly contentious issues such as the Deficit Reduction Act of 1993. In contrast, President Bush's selection of his foreign policy team (Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice, Donald Rumsfeld and George Tenet) did not reflect much regard for teamwork. The domineering conduct of Defense Secretary Rumsfeld rendered the team largely dysfunctional.

Obama's key economic and foreign policy advisers should be selected by Dec. 1 and confirmed promptly after the inauguration. Congress should recognize the urgency of filling these posts and accelerate the confirmation process.

The important sub-Cabinet-level appointees should be identified by Inauguration Day or soon after. The Bush administration had only 30 percent of its national security appointees in place nearly eight months after inauguration. In these times, such a lapse should not be repeated.

Major policy agendas should be agreed on, legislation prepared and executive orders drafted—all before the inauguration. It is a crucial time to set priorities and to demonstrate that key campaign promises will be fulfilled.

One line, however, should not be crossed. The nation can have only one president at a time. The president-elect should not take responsibility for, nor appear to endorse, decisions that are properly those of the incumbent. This is especially true with an outgoing administration that seems bent on making profound and troubling last-minute changes in the rules and regulations affecting civil liberties, abortion rights and the environment.

It is difficult to believe that Obama was nominated barely two months ago. In the intervening period, the world has gone into economic free fall, and a series of desperate measures have been taken to calm the waters. The results of those hurried initiatives will take years to play out. In the interim, there is little, if any, good news on the horizon. Even the precipitous drop in oil prices, a development that seems positive, has a corresponding dark side: Our oil-rich adversaries—Russia, Venezuela, Iran—sense a diminution in their economic muscle and may react to that loss in ways that will tax even an agile, decisive foreign policy team.

Obama was elected to the most important job in the world because he has the talent and temperament to do that job. Although he can't take office until Jan. 20, he can demonstrate the qualities that have taken him to this pinnacle by quickly forming an administration in waiting.

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

NOVEMBER 08, 1999

8 incumbents lose. Democrats increase representation

Saturday's polls yielded surprising results including the defeat of Saipan Republican Sen. Juan P. "Morgen" Tenorio, the rise of the Democrats, and the unseating of six Republican incumbents in the House of Representatives. Although the Republicans continue to claim the upper hand in the lower house, Democrats have managed to seize six of the 18 seats.

11-1 gets people's nod

NMI voters on Saturday cast their approval on a controversial proposal seeking to limit to the indigenous people the right to vote on land matters, but a leading oppositor to the legislative initiative said she's weighing the option of bringing the battle to the U.S. Supreme Court. Unofficial results provided by the Board of Elections showed that 5,903 voters, or 54.77 percent of the total votes cast, said "yes" to Legislative Initiative 11-1, and its author, Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez, described it as a victory for the NMI descent.

NOVEMBER 08, 2000

Teno to join NMI delegation to Manila

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is planning to join the five-man CNMI delegation that will travel to Manila to formalize the amendments to the existing bilateral labor agreement with the Philippine government. The scheduled November meeting was, however, temporarily moved to middle of December reportedly because of the arrival of Taiwanese government and aviation officials to Manila for talks on the air agreement between the Philippines and Taiwan.

US election: what it means for the CNMI

Island leaders and residents are closely watching the U.S. election being held today (Tuesday on the mainland) as the result is crucial to the CNMI's future relations with the federal government. Many local officials are hoping that Republican candidate, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, wins in the tight race for the presidency against Democrat bet, Vice President Al Gore, if only to block any federal takeover attempt.

NOVEMBER 08, 2001

Businesses sending workers home

Businesses have started sending some of their nonresident workers home due to the worsening economic situation in the Northern Marianas. Hyatt Regency Saipan took a painful cut in its manpower, as the hotel reportedly retrenched 80 contractual workers while implementing a 30-hour work week.

Blaze gutted Garapan restaurant

A fire broke out at a restaurant along Beach Road in Garapan yesterday afternoon. No one was reported injured. Firefighters immediately responded to the scene and managed to put off the blaze before it could even spread to adjacent establishments.

NOVEMBER 08, 2002

GOP victory thrills NMI

Gov. Juan N. Babauta's Republican administration was elated over the remarkable triumph of fellow Republicans in the U.S. midterm elections, citing the advantages it would give to the Commonwealth. Republican members of the CNMI Legislature echoed the administration's outlook, specifically pleased over the sweeping election victories that have established GOP's majority control over the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate.

Saipan Diamond Hotel takeover looms

A group of Korean investors is reportedly in discussion with the management of the Saipan Diamond Hotel for a possible buy-out deal. Both parties are reportedly ironing out several issues to finalize the agreement. Reports are rife that World Corporation has entered into an agreement with the Diamond Hotel management to discuss a possible takeover of operation as loose ends are being tied up.

NOVEMBER 08, 2003

CHC sets up triage desk

Amid complaints about delayed medical services, the Commonwealth Health Center Emergency Room has set up a triage desk to provide immediate attention to arriving patients. The DPH said two nurses will be working at the desk everyday-including weekends and holidays-from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Business

Vanishing jobs, stressed consumers feed downturn

WASHINGTON (AP)—A vicious cycle of vanishing jobs and stresses on American consumers is spelling deeper trouble for the already sinking U.S. economy.

All the economy's woes—a housing collapse, mounting foreclosures, hard-to-get credit and financial market upheaval—will confront President-elect Obama when he assumes office early next year. Obama has shifted from campaign mode to the task of building a new Democratic administration. A top priority will be quickly assembling his economics team, including the secretaries of Treasury, Commerce and Labor.

On the crucial jobs front, the situation is likely to move from bad to worse next year.

Employers have slashed jobs in the first nine months of this year. A staggering 760,000 losses have been racked up so far.

And more are expected. The government's monthly jobs report is due out Friday, and net job losses for October are expected to total about 200,000. The unemployment rate, now 6.1 percent, is expected to rise to 6.3 percent.

If it does, it would match the highest unemployment rate that was logged after the last recession, in 2001. The jobless rate hit 6.3 percent in June 2003 and then started to drift downward.

Many expect the jobless rate to climb to 8 percent, possibly higher, next year. In the 1980-1982 recession, the unemployment rate rose as high as 10.8 percent before inching down.

Stressed consumers are cutting back on their shopping and trying to trim their debt. Economists believe consumers cut back on borrowing in September, as another report to be released Friday is expected to show.

Nearly half a million Americans filed new claims for unemployment benefits in the last week alone, and skittish shoppers handed many retailers their weakest sales since 1969, government reports out Thursday showed.

The Labor Department said new filings for jobless benefits clocked in at 481,000, a dip from the previous week but a still-elevated level that suggests companies are resorting to big layoffs to cope with the economy's downturn.

Hartford Financial Services Group Inc., Circuit City Stores Inc., drug maker GlaxoSmith-Kline PLC, chip maker Advanced Micro Devices Inc., auto parts maker Dana Holding Corp., cable operators Comcast Corp. and Cox Communications Inc. and Fidelity Investments are among the companies that recently have announced layoffs.

Asian markets mixed on grim corporate forecasts

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian markets were mixed Friday with Japan's key stock index down 1.6 percent as grim profit forecasts from Toyota and other companies, combined with sluggish U.S. economic data, stoked pessimism about the global economy.

The Nikkei 225 stock average dropped 144.24 points to 8,754.90. Investor sentiment took a hit after Japan's top automaker Toyota slashed its annual forecast a third of what it was a year ago. Its shares plunged 10 percent.

While Australia's market was down, other markets recovered from early drops to climb higher. Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng index was up 1.1 percent to 13,964 by midday.

In South Korea, the Kospi stock index rebounded from a 4.9 percent fall after the country's central bank cut interest rates by a quarter of a point—the third cut in less than a month—in a bid to boost an economy hammered by the global financial crisis.

The move followed interest rate cuts by the European Central Bank and the Bank of England overnight.

Investors looking to U.S. markets for guidance found little encouragement. Wall Street's stock indexes plunged more than 4 percent on widespread anxiety about the economy after computer gear maker Cisco Systems warned of easing demand and retailers reporting weak sales for October. A jump unemployment benefits aggravated concerns.

"We're seeing data every day that looks really bad," said Nicole Sze, Singapore-based investment analyst at Bank Julius Baer & Co., which manages about $300 billion in assets. "The question is, has all the bad news been factored in? That's what investors are asking themselves."

Markets were likely to see more volatility as along as more bad news forced investors to readjust their expectations about the scope of a recession and its impact on company profits, analysts said.

Weakening prices for metals and oil pressured Australia's S&P/ASX 200 index, down 3.6 percent, as resource giants like BHP Billiton Ltd. slumped. Singapore's index was flat after the city-state's biggest bank, DBS Group Holdings Ltd., posted a worse-than-expected fall in quarterly profits.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

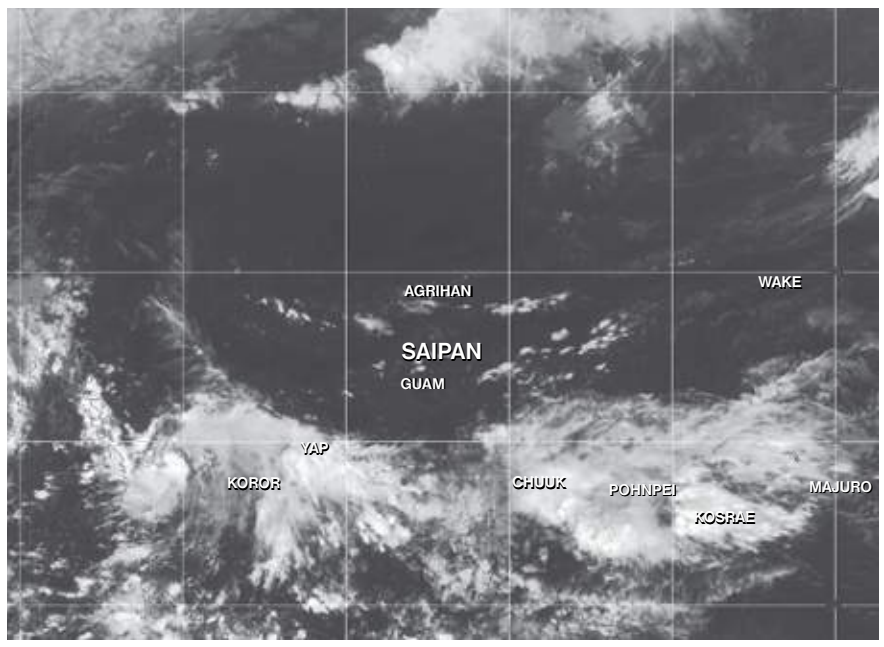
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼77
Palau	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Yap	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Chuuk	Thundershowers	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲65	▼51
Beijing	Cloudy	▲54	▼34
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲81	▼72
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲81	▼74
London	Showers	▲55	▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲76	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲68	▼49
Miami	Cloudy	▲82	▼69
New York	Cloudy	▲63	▼45
Osaka	Showers	▲56	▼43
Paris	Showers	▲50	▼45
Pusan	Rain	▲63	▼48
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼47
Salem	Cloudy	▲58	▼40
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼52
Seoul	Cloudy	▲56	▼29
Tokyo	Showers	▲64	▼50
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲67	▼46

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear-line across the Northern Mariana Islands that extends from 17N142E to 21N153E northeastward past 25N175E is triggering scattered showers within 50 miles a of line from 17N141E to 22N155E. A surface trough extends from 11N131E southward to EQ131E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Palau and Yap are within an area from 12N130E to 13N135E to 7N143E to EQ132E. Strongly convergent trade-wind flow along with upper-level divergence is generating extensive cloud-cover. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Kwajalein in an area from 6N145E to 12N166E to 7N170E to 1N148E back to 6N145E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:19AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:00AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
4:00PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:31PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:16AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:16AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:17AM	5:45 PM
Tuesday	6:17AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:17AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:53PM	1:13AM
Sunday	2:31PM	2:04AM
Monday	3:10PM	2:56AM
Tuesday	3:53PM	3:51AM
Wednesday	4:40PM	4:50AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:30am	6:20am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

OZ 608	1:30am	4:30am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:15am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:40am+1	3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

OZ 607	5:30pm	12:30am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

NOVEMBER 08, 1999

8 incumbents lose. Democrats increase representation

Saturday's polls yielded surprising results including the defeat of Saipan Republican Sen. Juan P. "Morgen" Tenorio, the rise of the Democrats, and the unseating of six Republican incumbents in the House of Representatives. Although the Republicans continue to claim the upper hand in the lower house, Democrats have managed to seize six of the 18 seats.

11-1 gets people's nod

NMI voters on Saturday cast their approval on a controversial proposal seeking to limit to the indigenous people the right to vote on land matters, but a leading oppositor to the legislative initiative said she's weighing the option of bringing the battle to the U.S. Supreme Court. Unofficial results provided by the Board of Elections showed that 5,903 voters, or 54.77 percent of the total votes cast, said "yes" to Legislative Initiative 11-1, and its author, Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez, described it as a victory for the NMI descent.

NOVEMBER 08, 2000

Teno to join NMI delegation to Manila

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is planning to join the five-man CNMI delegation that will travel to Manila to formalize the amendments to the existing bilateral labor agreement with the Philippine government. The scheduled November meeting was, however, temporarily moved to middle of December reportedly because of the arrival of Taiwanese government and aviation officials to Manila for talks on the air agreement between the Philippines and Taiwan.

US election: what it means for the CNMI

Island leaders and residents are closely watching the U.S. election being held today (Tuesday on the mainland) as the result is crucial to the CNMI's future relations with the federal government. Many local officials are hoping that Republican candidate, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, wins in the tight race for the presidency against Democrat bet, Vice President Al Gore, if only to block any federal takeover attempt.

NOVEMBER 08, 2001

Businesses sending workers home

Businesses have started sending some of their nonresident workers home due to the worsening economic situation in the Northern Marianas. Hyatt Regency Saipan took a painful cut in its manpower, as the hotel reportedly retrenched 80 contractual workers while implementing a 30-hour work week.

Blaze gutted Garapan restaurant

A fire broke out at a restaurant along Beach Road in Garapan yesterday afternoon. No one was reported injured. Firefighters immediately responded to the scene and managed to put off the blaze before it could even spread to adjacent establishments.

NOVEMBER 08, 2002

GOP victory thrills NMI

Gov. Juan N. Babauta's Republican administration was elated over the remarkable triumph of fellow Republicans in the U.S. midterm elections, citing the advantages it would give to the Commonwealth. Republican members of the CNMI Legislature echoed the administration's outlook, specifically pleased over the sweeping election victories that have established GOP's majority control over the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate.

Saipan Diamond Hotel takeover looms

A group of Korean investors is reportedly in discussion with the management of the Saipan Diamond Hotel for a possible buy-out deal. Both parties are reportedly ironing out several issues to finalize the agreement. Reports are rife that World Corporation has entered into an agreement with the Diamond Hotel management to discuss a possible takeover of operation as loose ends are being tied up.

NOVEMBER 08, 2003

CHC sets up triage desk

Amid complaints about delayed medical services, the Commonwealth Health Center Emergency Room has set up a triage desk to provide immediate attention to arriving patients. The DPH said two nurses will be working at the desk everyday-including weekends and holidays-from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Business

Vanishing jobs, stressed consumers feed downturn

WASHINGTON (AP)—A vicious cycle of vanishing jobs and stresses on American consumers is spelling deeper trouble for the already sinking U.S. economy.

All the economy's woes—a housing collapse, mounting foreclosures, hard-to-get credit and financial market upheaval—will confront President-elect Obama when he assumes office early next year. Obama has shifted from campaign mode to the task of building a new Democratic administration. A top priority will be quickly assembling his economics team, including the secretaries of Treasury, Commerce and Labor.

On the crucial jobs front, the situation is likely to move from bad to worse next year.

Employers have slashed jobs in the first nine months of this year. A staggering 760,000 losses have been racked up so far.

And more are expected. The government's monthly jobs report is due out Friday, and net job losses for October are expected to total about 200,000. The unemployment rate, now 6.1 percent, is expected to rise to 6.3 percent.

If it does, it would match the highest unemployment rate that was logged after the last recession, in 2001. The jobless rate hit 6.3 percent in June 2003 and then started to drift downward.

Many expect the jobless rate to climb to 8 percent, possibly higher, next year. In the 1980-1982 recession, the unemployment rate rose as high as 10.8 percent before inching down.

Stressed consumers are cutting back on their shopping and trying to trim their debt. Economists believe consumers cut back on borrowing in September, as another report to be released Friday is expected to show.

Nearly half a million Americans filed new claims for unemployment benefits in the last week alone, and skittish shoppers handed many retailers their weakest sales since 1969, government reports out Thursday showed.

The Labor Department said new filings for jobless benefits clocked in at 481,000, a dip from the previous week but a still-elevated level that suggests companies are resorting to big layoffs to cope with the economy's downturn.

Hartford Financial Services Group Inc., Circuit City Stores Inc., drug maker GlaxoSmith-Kline PLC, chip maker Advanced Micro Devices Inc., auto parts maker Dana Holding Corp., cable operators Comcast Corp. and Cox Communications Inc. and Fidelity Investments are among the companies that recently have announced layoffs.

Asian markets mixed on grim corporate forecasts

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian markets were mixed Friday with Japan's key stock index down 1.6 percent as grim profit forecasts from Toyota and other companies, combined with sluggish U.S. economic data, stoked pessimism about the global economy.

The Nikkei 225 stock average dropped 144.24 points to 8,754.90. Investor sentiment took a hit after Japan's top automaker Toyota slashed its annual forecast a third of what it was a year ago. Its shares plunged 10 percent.

While Australia's market was down, other markets recovered from early drops to climb higher. Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng index was up 1.1 percent to 13,964 by midday.

In South Korea, the Kospi stock index rebounded from a 4.9 percent fall after the country's central bank cut interest rates by a quarter of a point—the third cut in less than a month—in a bid to boost an economy hammered by the global financial crisis.

The move followed interest rate cuts by the European Central Bank and the Bank of England overnight.

Investors looking to U.S. markets for guidance found little encouragement. Wall Street's stock indexes plunged more than 4 percent on widespread anxiety about the economy after computer gear maker Cisco Systems warned of easing demand and retailers reporting weak sales for October. A jump unemployment benefits aggravated concerns.

"We're seeing data every day that looks really bad," said Nicole Sze, Singapore-based investment analyst at Bank Julius Baer & Co., which manages about $300 billion in assets. "The question is, has all the bad news been factored in? That's what investors are asking themselves."

Markets were likely to see more volatility as along as more bad news forced investors to readjust their expectations about the scope of a recession and its impact on company profits, analysts said.

Weakening prices for metals and oil pressured Australia's S&P/ASX 200 index, down 3.6 percent, as resource giants like BHP Billiton Ltd. slumped. Singapore's index was flat after the city-state's biggest bank, DBS Group Holdings Ltd., posted a worse-than-expected fall in quarterly profits.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Reid looking to remove Lieberman as committee head

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Joe Lieberman's affiliation with Democrats was in question after a meeting Thursday with Majority Leader Harry Reid, steamed over the Connecticut independent's high-profile support of John McCain for president. Reid, in a sternly worded statement after the 45-minute meeting, said no official decisions have been made. But an aide to the Nevada Democrat said Reid was leaning toward removing Lieberman as chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions were confidential. "While I understand that Sen. Lieberman has voted with Democrats a majority of the time, his comments and actions have raised serious concerns among many in our caucus," Reid said. Lieberman was Democrat Al Gore's vice presidential running mate eight years ago. He switched to an independent after he failed to win the Democratic Senate primary in Connecticut in 2006. Lieberman won the general election as an independent but is still registered as a Democrat.

No charges for ex-NY governor in prostitution case

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal prosecutors said Thursday that they will not bring criminal charges against Eliot Spitzer for his role in a prostitution scandal, removing a legal cloud that has surrounded the former New York governor since his epic downfall eight months ago. U.S. Attorney Michael Garcia said investigators found no evidence that Spitzer or his office misused public or campaign funds for prostitution. Investigators found that Spitzer solicited high-priced call girls, but federal prosecutors typically do not prosecute clients of prostitution rings. "After a thorough investigation, this office has uncovered no evidence of misuse of public or campaign funds," Garcia said. "We have concluded that the public interest would not be further advanced by filing criminal charges in this matter." The announcement by Garcia signals the end of the bombshell investigation of Emperors Club VIP and means that nine other men described in an indictment as clients of the lucrative prostitution service also have escaped charges. Those clients were never identified.

Obama's choice of Emanuel shows switch in tone

CHICAGO (AP)—Barack Obama is signaling a shift in tactics and temperament as he moves from candidate to president-elect, picking sharp-elbowed Washington insiders for top posts.

His choice Thursday for White House chief of staff—Rahm Emanuel, a fiery partisan who doesn't mind breaking glass and hurting feelings—is a significant departure from the soft-spoken, low-key aides that "No-Drama Obama" surrounded himself with during his campaign. And transition chief John Podesta, like Emanuel, is a former top aide to Bill Clinton and a tough partisan infighter, though less bombastic than the new chief of staff.

The selections are telling for Obama, who campaigned as a nontraditional, almost "post-partisan" newcomer. People close to him say the selections show that Obama is aware of his weaknesses as well as his strengths and knows what he needs to be successful as he shifts from campaigning to governing.

AP

Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill., center, walks down an alley with a member of his staff while talking on his cell phone as he leaves his local congressional office for the night, Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008 in Chicago.

"No one I know is better at getting things done than Rahm Emanuel," said Obama, who also spoke by phone with nine world leaders Thursday.

Obama, who survived a long contest with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination, also has made it clear he will rely heavily on veterans of her husband's eight-year administration, the only Democratic presidency in the past 28 years. Podesta was President Clinton's chief of staff, and several other former Clinton aides are on Obama's short lists for key jobs, Democratic officials say. Some of them helped write a large briefing book on how to govern, assembled under Podesta's supervision.

Obama himself brims with self-confidence, to the point that some people view him as arrogant. But to a greater degree than many presidents, he appears willing to lean on Washington insiders associated with other politicians.

Still, he is also certain to bring to the White House a cadre of longtime aides.

Emanuel accepted Obama's offer with a gesture of bipartisanship, addressing part of his statement to Republicans. "We often disagree, but I respect their motives," Emanuel said. "Now is a time for unity, and, Mr. President-elect, I will do everything in my power to help you stitch together the frayed fabric of our politics, and help summon Americans of both parties to unite in common purpose."

That would come as news to some Republicans.

In contrast to Obama's collegial style and that of his top campaign advisers, Emanuel is known as a foul-mouthed practitioner of brass-knuckled politics who relishes both conflict and publicity. He once mailed a dead fish to a political foe.

But he also earned a reputation for pragmatic efficiency, whether the goal was winning House elections for Democrats or working with Republicans to enact Clinton's centrist political agenda.

Obama speaks with 9 world leaders

CHICAGO (AP)—President-elect Obama accepted congratulations from nine presidents and prime ministers Thursday, returning calls from world leaders who reached out after his presidential victory.

The global financial crisis was among the topics Obama discussed with key U.S. allies he'll deal with during his administration.

Obama spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter said the president-elect spoke to Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso, Mexican President Felipe Calderon, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Sarkozy's office says they spoke for 30 minutes and characterized the discussion as "extremely warm" as the president congratulated Obama on a "brilliant" election victory. The statement said they discussed international issues, particularly the financial crisis, and agreed to meet in the "quite near future."

Harper's office said in a statement that they spoke about an international financial summit in Washington on Nov. 15 and its importance for addressing the global financial crisis. Obama had no plans to attend the meeting.

The prime minister's office says the two leaders emphasized that there could be no closer friends and allies than the United States and Canada and vowed to maintain and further build upon the relationship. Harper's office called it a warm exchange and said they agreed to talk again soon.

Calderon's office said Obama pledged continued U.S. support for Mexico's fight against organized crime and drug trafficking. A statement from the Mexican president's office says Obama told Calderon he was "conscious of the difficulty of the battle" and offered "decisive" U.S. support.

Palin lays low as interview requests pile up

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Gov. Sarah Palin hadn't been back home in Alaska for a full day and her staff had begun fielding requests Thursday for postelection interviews, including from Barbara Walters, Oprah Winfrey, Larry King and others.

Palin had been expected at her office in Anchorage but later notified her staff that she wouldn't show up after all. She remained at her home in Wasilla, located 40 miles to the north, but was expected in her office on Friday, spokesman Bill McAllister said.

"The intensity of all the interest is amazing. Everyone wants to talk to her," he said.

Palin is coming off a whirlwind nine weeks of almost nonstop travel and campaigning since becoming Republican John McCain's vice presidential running mate in late August. McCain and Palin lost Tuesday's election to Democrats Barack Obama and Joe Biden.

"I think she's been working from home," McAllister said. "Maybe she just liked the idea of spending a whole day at home. It could be the first time she woke up in her own bed and spent the night in her own bed on the same day since late August."

Aides to McCain and Palin, meanwhile, responded to reports of tension between the two sides over the Republican Party's purchase of more than $150,000 worth of clothing for Palin and her family, and accusations that Palin was ill-prepared for her role.

Randy Scheunemann, McCain's foreign policy adviser, called the idea of a split between the two campaigns "laughable."

"It's hard to believe these people worked for John McCain. They obviously have no loyalty to John McCain and no loyalty to his running mate," said Scheunemann, who prepared Palin for the vice presidential debae.

"I've worked in Washington for over 20 years. I have seen literally dozens of politicians, and Sarah Palin is as smart, tough and focused as any politician I've ever seen. I'm proud of the time I was able to spend with her," he said.

Meg Stapleton, a campaign spokeswoman for Palin, said the accusations were unfortunate.

Calif. gay-marriage ban creates legal uncertainty

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Hundreds of protesters took to the streets Thursday over California's new ban on gay marriage, amid deepening political turmoil and legal confusion over who should have the right to wed.

Legal experts said it is unclear whether an attempt by gay-rights activists to overturn the prohibition has any chance of success, and whether the 18,000 same-sex marriages performed in California over the past four months are in any danger.

California voters Tuesday approved a constitutional amendment disallowing gay marriage. The measure, which won 52 percent approval, overrides a California Supreme Court ruling last May that briefly gave same-sex couples the right to wed.

On Thursday, about 1,000 gay-marriage supporters demonstrated outside a Mormon temple in the Westwood section of Los Angeles. Sign-waving demonstrators spilled onto Santa Monica Boulevard, bringing afternoon traffic to a halt. The temple was targeted because the Mormon church strongly supported the ban on gay marriage.

"I'm disappointed in the Californians who voted for this," said F. Damion Barela, 43, a Studio City resident who married his husband nearly five months ago. He noted that nearly 70 percent of black voters and a slight majority of Hispanic voters voted for the ban.

"To them I say, 'Shame on you because you should know what this feels like,'" he said.

Some spectators cheered from apartment balconies; one person threw eggs at the marchers. Two people were arrested after a confrontation between the crowd and an occupant of a pickup truck that showed a banner supporting the amendment.

On Wednesday night, police in Los Angeles arrested seven people as more than 1,000 protesters blocked traffic in West Hollywood. One man was wrestled to the ground by police after he jumped up and down on the roof of a squad car. Another man was clubbed by police. Hundreds of protesters also gathered on the steps of San Francisco's City Hall, some holding candles and carrying signs that read, "We all deserve the freedom to marry."

Gay-marriage proponents filed three court challenges Wednesday against the new ban. The lawsuits raise a rare legal argument: that the ballot measure was actually a dramatic revision of the California Constitution rather than a simple amendment. A constitutional revision must first pass the Legislature before going to the voters.

"Where do you draw the line between 'revision' and 'an amendment' when those are words in conversation we would use interchangeably?" asked Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the University of California, Irvine law school. "It's a highly technical legal question in a highly charged political atmosphere."

Asia

China envoy's Taiwan trip highlights big differences

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—He stepped off the plane with a mission: Make history by becoming the most senior Chinese official to visit Taiwan. Sign a landmark trade deal. Draw the wayward island closer to motherland China.

Chinese envoy Chen Yunlin did all those things during his trip that ended Friday. But his five-day visit also highlighted how—socially and politically—Taiwan and China are not merely like two separate countries. They are more like different planets.

While Chen hobnobbed with tycoons and officials on Taiwan's banquet circuit, he was mocked by comedians, cursed by rowdy street protesters and scrutinized by the island's aggressive media.

The press dubbed his Elvis-style pompadour hairdo "airplane head." A newspaper headline asked, "Who knows how much hair gel he uses?"

A popular chant by street protesters who dogged him was, "Chen Yunlin scram!" They unfurled a huge banner from a window at his hotel that called him a "Communist bandit." He was trapped in a banquet hall past midnight Wednesday by demonstrators who surrounded the venue and blocked traffic.

A nightly TV comedy show that features impersonations of political figures targeted him, too, with a comedian appearing as a stiff, poofy-haired Chen with two thuggish bodyguards at his side and mimicking the slow, stodgy way Chinese leaders speak.

Parody and protests are common in Taiwan's raucous democracy. They wouldn't be tolerated in Chen's communist police state back home, just 100 miles on the other side of the Taiwan Strait. The nation's top leaders must be respected—by everyone.

Despite the insults and mockery, Chen declared his trip a success as he ended his visit Friday. But he cautioned that the rivals had a long road to travel toward better relations.

"We have successfully accomplished this memorable voyage," he said. "We have completed the mission that people across the strait have long desired and have handed over to us."

NKorea: 'Ready to deal with' Obama administration

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A North Korean diplomat says the communist country is ready to deal with any new U.S. administration following Barack Obama's election to the presidency as talks continued over dismantlement of its nuclear weapons program.

Ri Gun, a North Korean nuclear negotiator, spoke Thursday in New York after a meeting with Sung Kim, the U.S. special envoy to the international negotiations on Pyongyang's nuclear programs.

"We have dealt with various U.S. administrations, including an administration that sought dialogue with us and an administration that attempted to isolate and contain us," Ri said. "Whatever U.S. administration comes forward, we are ready to deal with that administration's policy" on Pyongyang.

During his campaign, Obama tried to distance himself from the hard-line policies President Bush adopted in his first term on North Korea's nuclear weapons. He has emphasized his willingness to continue direct talks with the North—a policy Bush has now embraced.

On Friday, Obama spoke by telephone with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and pledged to work closely together with the Asian ally to help resolve the North Korean nuclear standoff and the global financial turmoil.

Obama called the U.S. alliance with Seoul a "cornerstone" of Asia's peace and stability, Lee's office said.

The United States helped defend South Korea during the 1950-53 Korean War. About 28,500 American troops are still stationed across South Korea to deter threats from the North.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NKorea media reports series of Kim Jong Il outings

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Kim Jong Il has been to a soccer game, inspected a military unit and attended a concert recently, according to North Korea's state media—an energetic set of outings for a 66-year-old man believed to be recovering from a stroke. The sudden surge in state-media reports on the North Korean leader's public appearances contrasts with the total absence of activity since mid-August, when Kim reportedly underwent brain surgery. South Korean analysts note the reports, which are all but impossible to independently confirm, coincided with the U.S. presidential election. "I think this is a message to the United States," said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies. "The message appears to be that: 'I make decisions on relations with the United States, the nuclear standoff and everything. I'm in control and I'm ready to have direct talks with'" Barack Obama.

Petraeus: Afghan tribes needed to fight militants

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan tribes are needed as crucial battlefield allies against the Taliban and other extremists in the same way local militias rose up to oppose insurgents in Iraq, the new military overseer of America's two wars said Thursday. The tactic has long been endorsed by Gen. David Petraeus—the former top U.S. commander in Iraq whose outreach to Sunni sheiks helped oust al-Qaida-inspired militants from key areas and sharply decreased attacks. But his latest comments—on his first trip to Afghanistan since taking charge of U.S. Central Command last week—appeared aimed at pressing the Afghan leadership to recognize the need for tribal militia allies at a time when violence in Afghanistan is at its highest levels since 2001.

Bombers kill 19 and wound dozens in NW Pakistan

KHAR, Pakistan (AP)—Two suicide bombers attacked pro-government tribesmen and security forces Thursday in Pakistan's volatile northwest, killing at least 19 people and wounding dozens, officials said. The separate attacks came in a region where the Pakistani military has clashed for months with Islamic insurgents allied with Taliban and al-Qaida militants who are involved in attacks on American and NATO troops in neighboring Afghanistan. U.S. officials have praised Pakistan for getting tougher on militants, but the offensives have escalated extremist bloodshed in the Muslim nation where anti-American sentiment runs deep. The first suicide attacker killed 17 people and wounded 40 at a gathering of tribesmen in a militia formed to combat insurgents, government and hospital officials said. A purported spokesman for a Taliban-linked group claimed responsibility for the attack.

World

Arabs see hope in Obama

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—An Arab news network blared U.S. election coverage in a Cairo hair salon, and the barbers and beauticians watched the images of Barack Obama's victory in amazement. Then it cut to scenes from the latest Israeli-Palestinian violence and the funeral of Gaza fighters.

"Look, do you see that? That will end! It will get better!" blurted Ayman al-Sawi, caught up in the Obama enthusiasm.

Others in the shop sneered. All American presidents are the same: Pro-Israel, one man said. But al-Sawi stood his ground.

"It won't be perfect, but Obama will be kinder," insisted the owner of a nearby electronics shop, who was hanging out in the salon on a customer-less Wednesday morning. "Look, I know America will always put Israel first, I'm not naive ... But at least with Obama, I feel he will throw us a bone."

Almost despite themselves, many Arabs are daring to hope Obama will bring something new to the Middle East, where bitterness toward the U.S. is probably the highest in the world.

Part of the optimism is simple joy at the imminent end of the Bush administration. Few figures are more disliked among the Mideast public than President Bush.

Over past years, the bloodshed in Iraq, fears of war with Iran, abuse at Abu Ghraib and prisoners at Guantanamo convinced many that the United States was an anti-Arab, anti-Muslim bully. A feeling of despair and hopelessness became widespread and few believed U.S. policies would ever change.

AP

Palestinian gunmen from the radical Palestine Liberation Front, watch U.S. presidential candidates Sen. Barack Obama speak on a television, as poster of the former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein hangs on the wall, at their base in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh, near the southern port city of Sidon, Lebanon, Tuesday Nov. 4, 2008.

Bush punts unfinished Mideast peace deal to Obama

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Bush administration has conceded that an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal is no longer possible by the end of its term and is preparing to hand the fragile, unfinished U.S.-backed peace effort to President-elect Obama.

Obama may not want it, at least as designed by the Republican Bush administration, seen as slow to embrace the role of honest Mideast broker. Many of Obama's foreign policy advisers were players in the Clinton administration's extensive Mideast peace efforts and are unenthusiastic about President Bush's hands-off approach.

After months of publicly insisting that an agreement still could be sealed by the year-end deadline set by the two sides and Bush last November in Annapolis, Md., U.S. officials said Thursday for the first time it would have to wait.

"We do not think it is likely it will happen before the end of the year," White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said in Washington after Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice acknowledged as much at the start of a Mideast trip.

WORLD BRIEFS

Villagers found dead in rebel-controlled town

KIWANJA, Congo (AP)—Villagers who fled fighting in this rebel-held town trickled home Thursday to find the bodies of more than a dozen men in civilian clothes in and around mud huts—and accused rebel leader Laurent Nkunda's forces of the slayings. But New York-based Human Rights Watch accused a pro-government militia called the Mai Mai as well as the rebels of deliberately killing civilians in Kiwanja and said U.N. peacekeepers nearby had been unable to protect them. Nkunda's men wrested control of Kiwanja Wednesday following heavy fighting with the Mai Mai, one of many signs that the conflict is spreading in eastern Congo and a fragile cease-fire is close to unraveling. The villagers said rebels had killed unarmed civilians suspected of supporting the Mai Mai, but the rebels said the dead were militia fighters who had been armed.

Syria blames al-Qaida inspired group for bombing

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)_Syria blamed al-Qaida inspired militants Thursday for a Damascus car bombing in September that killed 17 people. Ten men and one woman—said to be members of the Fatah Islam group that battled the army in Lebanon last year—appeared on Syrian state television and claimed to have carried out the bombing, a rarity in Syria. The station gave no indication of how or when they had been arrested. The unusual broadcast reflected Syrian efforts to portray themselves as victims of al-Qaida-linked militants that the government is trying to crack down on. The United States has accused Syria of not doing enough to curb the flow of militant fighters across its borders and into Iraq. In late October, a U.S. helicopter raid into Syria near Iraq's border targeted what American officials said was a militant leader there. Damascus says eight civilians were killed and retaliated by ordering the U.S. cultural center and an American school in Damascus closed.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, November 8, 2008

11 DEAD, 30 RESCUED, 3 MISSING

Boat capsizes in storm in central Philippines

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A passenger boat that capsized during a storm, drowning 11 people just 200 yards (meters) offshore, left a port in the central Philippines without clearance, the coast guard said Friday.

Half an hour into a short journey Thursday afternoon, the engine failed, then strong winds and high waves caused the boat to break up and overturn, within the sight of its destination at Bagongon islet, the coast guard said in a statement.

Eleven people died and rescuers pulled out 30 survivors, while three remained missing, the statement said. Search and rescue operations resumed early Friday after the storm cleared, and a notice was sent out to all vessels in the area to be on the lookout for survivors.

The coast guard said the motorized outrigger left Concepcion Feeder port in Iloilo province Thursday ignoring a ban on sailing imposed because of the approaching storm.

Raul Banas, former mayor of Concepcion, said the boat normally carries 30 passengers. Commercial vessels are often overloaded.

Capt. Eduardo Fabricante, coast guard chief of Iloilo city, said earlier that the boat's operator may have not received the storm warning in time. An investigation was under way.

The tropical depression that battered the Visayas region with winds of 34 miles per hour (55 kilometers per hour) and gusts of up to 44 mph (70 kph) moved on to the South China Sea on Friday. It was forecast to make landfall in Vietnam this weekend.

The same storm earlier forced the suspension of a search for eight people still missing from Tuesday's ferry accident off Masbate island, northeast of Iloilo, in which at least 42 drowned. There were 100 survivors, and the captain was detained on charges of operating the crowded vessel illegally.

He has denied the charges.

Sea accidents are common in the Philippine archipelago because of tropical storms, badly maintained boats and weak enforcement of safety regulations.

In December 1987, the ferry *Dona Paz* sank after colliding with a fuel tanker, killing more than 4,341 people in the world's worst peacetime maritime disaster.

In June, the 23,800-ton *Princess of the Stars* ferry overturned during a typhoon close to Romblon province, near Masbate, killing more than 800 people on board.

A LESSON NEVER LEARNED AP

In this photo released by Philippine National Red Cross Masbate, the ferry *Don Dexter Cathlyn*, its belly protruding from the sea, lies off Magcaraguit Island in Dimasalang, Masbate, central Philippines, Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008. Philippine investigators detained the captain of the crowded ferry that overturned in freak weather, drowning 42 passengers, on suspicion of operating the vessel illegally.

WBC to Pacquiao: Pay or lose title

Boxing body wants $130,000 fee

CHENGDU, CHINA—The Philippines' boxing hero Manny Pacquiao must cough up $130,000 (P6.24 million) within the next 15 days or be stripped of his World Boxing Council lightweight title, the WBC said on Thursday.

Pacquiao

The boxing body's governors, meeting in Chengdu, are demanding that Pacquiao pay $30,000 in sanctioning fees they say he owes, or they will take his belt.

The WBC is also insisting that Pacquiao pay $100,000 within 15 days of his anticipated fight against Oscar De La Hoya or face the same punishment. That non-title fight is scheduled for Dec. 6 at the MGM Grand Arena.

"Manny Pacquiao is a great champion and the pride of the WBC. But he believes he is the ruler of the organization and that is not going to happen," WBC president Jose Sulaiman told Reuters.

Pacquiao could not be reached at the Wild Card Gym, his training camp in Hollywood.

"If he doesn't want to do it, he goes his way and we go our way," said Sulaiman. "He has made a fortune with the WBC. He became famous fighting WBC champions like Marco Antonio Barrera and Erik Morales and now he's trying to kick us in the back and send us home. We cannot do that.

"I am very disappointed because he's a friend, he is the hero of President (Gloria Macapagal) Arroyo and of the Philippines, and I feel very bad because of the way that we've been treated. But the phone is there and the door is open." ***(Reuters)***

OWWA has new welfare officer in CNMI

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration has a new officer in the CNMI following the completion of former welfare officer Leonor Mabagal's two-year term last week.

Mabagal, who left Saipan for the main office in Manila, Philippines yesterday morning, turned over her post to officer Reynaldo D. Tayag early this week.

Tayag arrived on Nov. 1 from Manila and immediately started his two-year term on Monday, Nov. 3.

In an interview at the OWWA office yesterday, Tayag said the CNMI is his second assignment abroad. His first two-year post was in Seoul, South Korea, from 1997-1999.

"That was the time of the economic recession in Asia and it was really a difficult situation," he said.

During his first week on Saipan, Tayag paid a courtesy call to the Secretary of Labor as well as other government offices.

His first impression of Saipan is that there are minimal cases to attend to because local labor laws are being enforced, compared to those in other countries like Korea and the Middle East.

Tayag

"We have to attend to about 10 cases each day in Korea," he said.

On Saipan, he said, the OWWA office is working on a facilitative process as well as programs that would benefit and promote overseas Filipino workers.

"I will continue to undertake the programs and services of the former officer," Tayag said.

He said he would continue to reach out to OFWs to encourage them to become OWWA members and make them realize the importance of being a member.

Prior to his coming to the CNMI, Tayag was a welfare officer under the Management Information system/Planning and Program Development Division.

The 56-year old native of Pampanga, in Central Luzon graduated in 1970 from the University of the Philippines-Los Banos with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture and a master's in Community Development at the College of Social Work and Community Development in UP Diliman in 1997.

He has held various positions such as research assistant, training associate and community organizer at UP, and program coordinator with a non-government organization before his employment with OWWA as project development officer at the Region IV office from 1989-1991.

He became supervising project development officer at the OWWA head office from 1991 to 1996 then OIC for Livelihood Operations Division from 1996 to 1997.

Then came South Korea, where he was the Center Coordinator for POLO-Philemba, managing the daily operations of the Filipino Workers Resource Center, conducting trainings for OFWs on business planning and other skills development.

After his Seoul post, Tayag held various posts at the OWWA main office.

? LABOR FRONT

Proper actions during Labor hearing

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Q: How should a Labor case complainant act during the administrative hearing proceedings?

A: All persons appearing in proceedings before a Labor administrative hearing officer are expected to act with integrity and in an ethical manner. According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, a hearing officer may exclude parties, participants, and their representatives for refusal to comply with directions, continued use of dilatory tactics, refusal to adhere to reasonable standards of orderly and ethical conduct, and failure to act in good faith.

■ ■ ■

Q: Can a person suspended from participating in an administrative hearing appeal the suspension order?

A: Yes. The Regulations state that a hearing officer shall state on the record the cause for suspending or barring any person from participation in a proceeding. Any person so suspended or barred may appeal to the Labor Secretary, but no proceeding shall be delayed or suspended pending disposition of the appeal.

A hearing officer shall suspend the proceeding for a reasonable time if it is necessary for a party to obtain another lawyer or representative. A hearing officer may apply the Commonwealth Disciplinary Rules and Procedures for guidance when issuing decisions regarding ethics.

■ ■ ■

Q: Can a Labor administrative hearing officer entertain an Immigration's request to expedite a pending Labor case?

A: The Regulations state that the Labor administrative hearing officer in his or her discretion can accept such Immigration's request and may order that a pending labor matter involving a party who is currently in deportation proceedings in the Superior Court be heard and decided on an expedited basis.

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RP loses bid for seat in int'l court justice

Somalia takes seat

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The country has lost its bid for a seat in the International Court of Justice to Somalia, the Philippine Mission to the United Nations said in an e-mailed statement to media.

"Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago's bid for a seat in the ICJ came to an unsuccessful end on Thursday (Friday morning in Manila) but not after the Philippine candidate came up with a good fight that forced voting to go on for the entire day," the Mission said.

According to the Mission, those elected during the first round of balloting in both the General Assembly and the Security Council were Christopher Greenwood of the United Kingdom; Ronny Abraham of France; Antonio Augusto Cancado Trindade of Brazil; and reelectionist Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh of Jordan.

Santiago lost to Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf of Somalia, who won in the fourth and final round of balloting.

The Mission said the Philippines came in strong during the initial voting in the morning but had to yield the fifth and final seat in the international court to Somalia during the fourth round of balloting early in the evening.

Ambassador Hilario Davide Jr., Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations, said Santiago, who sought to replicate the election to the ICJ of former Supreme Court Chief Justice Cesar Bengson in 1966, emerged in the top five in the first round of balloting in the General Assembly.

However, she was not able to muster enough votes in the Security Council, thus forcing both UN organs to go into subsequent rounds of voting to determine who among the four remaining candidates would fill up the last vacant seat.

"Her candidature had aimed to achieve a representation in the Court of the form of civilization of countries in the Southeast Asian region and the mixed legal system of civil and common law, which is the sixth largest in the world."

Under ICJ rules, a candidate must obtain the absolute majority of votes in both the 15-member Security Council and the 192-member General Assembly to be declared a winner.

Davide said that Santiago, as the lone female in the race, was able to count on the support of member-states who saw the need to ensure gender balance in the court to deprive the four African candidates of the required number of votes in the first round of balloting in the General Assembly.

"In the end, however, it was regional representation and not gender balance that determined the final outcome," said the former Supreme Court Chief Justice, who oversaw the Philippine campaign.

"Member-states felt that Africa somehow needed to be represented there at the Hague since Asia was already able to secure a seat with the reelection of Jordan in the first round," he added.

Davide, who along with Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo led Filipino diplomats in the final stretch of the yearlong campaign, still called the experience a victory for the country.

"We may have not won the seat but our campaign heightened the awareness of the international community on the need for gender balance and empowerment of women in the world's major judicial organ," he said.

Davide also lauded Santiago for accepting the nomination to become the second Filipino to serve in the ICJ.

"Senator Santiago has proved herself worthy of the campaign and has heightened the respect of the international community for herself and for her country," he said.

"It was a valiant campaign and an honorable loss," Davide said, noting that for the senator Santiago to be in the top five during the first round despite the fact that she was up against a reelectionist vice president of the court and for voting to go all the way to the fourth round was an indication that she was a strong contender for the position.

2 suspects identified in ex-mayor's slay

By JEANNETTE ANDRADE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Investigators of the Manila Police District (MPD) are looking for two suspects in the killing last week of a former mayor of Sarangani province inside a cold storage plant in Manila.

MPD homicide section unit investigators told Inquirer (parent company of INQUIRER.net) they have identified at least two suspects in the death of former Maitum town mayor Felix Reganit, 54.

The victim was found lying in a pool of blood inside the Luz cold storage plant on Honorio Lopez Boulevard in Balut, Tondo.

The police refused to identify the suspects in order not to jeopardize the manhunt.

"Witnesses have surfaced to pinpoint the gunmen. We are investigating the possible link of the killing to a case previously filed against the victim," a police source revealed.

Reganit's death followed last month's recall by a Sarangani Province regional trial court of a warrant issued for the ex-mayor's arrest for the Nov. 11, 2006 killing of then Maitum town mayor George Yabes. Reganit, who was then vice mayor, replaced Yabes upon his death.

Reganit went into hiding after he was accused of killing Yabes. The Yabes family put up a P300,000 reward for information that would lead to his arrest.

In September, Sarangani Province RTC Executive Judge Jaime Infante granted Reganit's motion to quash the warrant of arrest after the witness who implicated him in the 2006 killing recanted an extrajudicial confession.

Reganit's body was discovered at around 10:45 a.m. on Oct. 31 by security guard Alfredo Sanchez Jr.

The victim's wife, Eloise, told homicide investigators that her husband was on his way to the cold storage plant to talk to someone whom he did not identify. Reganit, Eloise said, was armed with a .45 cal. pistol.

The victim sustained three bullet wounds in the body. His handgun was apparently taken by the killers.

Filipinos awed by orderly US elections, fast vote count

Pull out US TROOPS in the Phils.
Pull out US TROOPS in the Phils.
Do not support ARROYO'S TYRANNY!
CHANGE we need: NO MORE U.S. INTERVENTION
- League of Filipino Students
CHANGE we need: NO MORE
Do not support ARROYO'S TYRANNY!

AP

'CHANGE WE NEED'
A group of students display their placards as they shout slogans during a picket Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008, at the University of the Philippines in suburban Quezon City north of Manila, Philippines. The students challenged U.S. President-elect Barack Obama to fulfill his promises of change by withdrawing support for Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and to pull out U.S. forces in the country.

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The drama and glitter of the U.S. elections had many Filipinos enthralled. What left them envious was how fast and orderly the process went.

No allegations of massive fraud like those that have plagued the Southeast Asian country since dictator Ferdinand Marcos was ousted by a peaceful "people power" revolt in 1986. No outbreaks of violence that leave dozens of candidates and supporters dead. No weeks-long wait for final results.

So when President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo called Wednesday to congratulate Democrat Barack Obama, she also praised the U.S. electoral system.

"We welcome his triumph in the same vein that we place the integrity of the U.S. electoral process and the choices made by the American people in high regard," Arroyo said in a statement.

In a nationally televised news conference, where Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita read Arroyo's statement, some wondered if Filipinos could ever experience elections like America's.

"We're quite envious," said Marie Pena-Ruiz, who works for the state-run radio station DZRB, citing the soaring acceptance speech by Obama and the equally bridge-building concession address by John McCain.

"Do you think there is hope that in the Philippines, there will also come a time that politicians here will be like that?" she asked Ermita.

"I'm sure that (if) it did not fail to catch your attention ... our political leaders definitely have taken note of that," Ermita replied.

"You can see that immediately the wounds that may have been created by the hectic campaign easily would heal because of the maturity of the democratic system in the United States," Ermita said.

The Philippines is a long way from political maturity, opposition leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

With poverty gripping a third of the populace, many politically entrenched elite families have bought their way to power. Elections are still won by "guns, goons and gold," Pimentel said.

13 hurt in new bus accident on Edsa

By BEVERLY T. NATIVIDAD
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Another speeding bus was involved in an accident on Edsa in Mandaluyong City Thursday morning.

Though there was no fatality, 13 passengers—two women and 11 men—were wounded in the collision between an HM bus with plate number TYK-375 and a JRMS bus with plate TXH-342.

Passengers told case investigators of the Mandaluyong Traffic Office that the HM bus driver, Bernardo Dayco, 41, was speeding on the southbound lane of Edsa near SM Megamall when it hit the rear end of the JRMS bus driven by Joey de Guzman, 37.

Conditions on the highway were particularly hazardous that morning because it was drizzling, investigators added.

The Mandaluyong Traffic Office said Dayco could be charged with reckless imprudence resulting in damage to property plus multiple physical injuries.

But the 13 passengers did not file any complaint and were instead trying to settle with the bus companies, investigators said.

On Oct. 21, a doctor died and three people were injured when two buses racing against each other hit a car, causing it to burst into flames. Authorities suspended the franchise of the Joanna Jesh bus line for 30 days.

Just the other day, a Nicholas Albert bus hit a Metro Rail Transit post and then slammed into another bus, also on Edsa, leaving 15 passengers injured.

Demolition in Boracay turns violent

By NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ILOILO CITY—Several persons were injured and a fire destroyed and damaged stalls and houses after violence erupted during a demolition on a disputed commercial-residential lot along the beach on Boracay Island Thursday morning.

Supt. Larry Decena, acting Aklan police director, said a still undetermined number of persons were hurt after unidentified persons threw stones at the demolition team and their police escorts.

Sheriffs from the Kalibo Regional Trial Court accompanied by a demolition team arrived at the 6,000-square meter property in Sitio Manggayad in Barangay Manoc-Manoc around 8 a.m.

They were escorted by around 100 policemen from the Aklan Provincial Police Office and the Boracay Special Tourist Police Office.

Decena said the sheriffs and demolition team were prevented by occupants from entering the property, which has been transformed into a commercial center. The occupants put up a human barricade of around 50 persons, mostly women, to block the demolition team.

An hour-long negotiation followed between the occupants and the sheriffs but a commotion erupted after smoke and fire were seen coming out from one of the stalls.

Police subsequently fired teargas to disperse the barricade and the protesting occupants as the fire started to spread.

Peso snaps 3-day rally, now at P48.55:$1

The Philippine peso fell, halting a three-day rally, on concern dollar inflows will slow as a global economic slump curbs exports and remittances from overseas workers. Ten-year government bonds fell.

The peso slid in tandem with regional currencies after U.S. reports showed service industries in the world's biggest economy contracted the most on record in October and companies cut 157,000 jobs, the biggest reduction since November 2002. The U.S. is the Philippines' biggest export market and No. 1 source of payments from Filipinos working abroad.

"The combination of slowing exports and remittances, along with the absence of direct and portfolio investments, will continue to hurt the peso," said Radhika Rao, an economist at IDEAglobal Ltd. in Singapore.

The currency fell 1 percent to P48.555 per dollar as of the close of trading, its biggest decline in three weeks, according to the Bankers Association of the Philippines. Seven of Asia's 10 most-active currencies outside Japan declined. Shares fell in the region.

The peso may drop to P49.50 in the coming weeks before rising to P47 by year-end as Philippine nationals abroad send home more money for the Christmas holidays, IDEAglobal's Rao said.

AP

A Filipino trader picks up a newspaper showing headline stories about U.S. President-elect Barrack Obama during a break in activities at the Philippines Stock Exchange in the financial district of Makati, south of Manila, Philippines, Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008.

EXCHANGE RATES
DOLLAR $1.00 = PESO P48.5

The government may lower its peso forecast for 2009, central bank Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said on Wednesday, without providing details.

Ten-year bonds fell after the Philippines' main tax bureau said it's seeking to lower its revenue target next year and is likely to miss this year's collection goal, adding to risks that the government deficit could widen.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue wants to cut the target next year to P915 billion from P968 billion, commissioner Sixto Esquivias said on Thursday.

The yield on the 5.875-percent debt due in January 2018 rose one basis point to 9.24 percent, according to the late-morning fixing at Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. The price lost 0.04, or P4 per P10,000 face amount, to 79.36. A basis point is 0.01 percentage point. ***(Bloomberg)***

Survey: RP consumers upbeat despite crisis

By DAXIM LUCAS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Filipinos have exhibited slightly stronger confidence in spending their hard-earned money in the second half of 2008 amid the severest global financial crisis in 80 years, a recent survey has found.

According to the latest edition of the Nielsen consumer confidence survey, this seeming disconnect between local and global sentiment may be due to several factors, which include prices that appear to have leveled off after several months of rapid increases.

Nielsen Company Philippines managing director Benedicto Cid Jr. at a news briefing also described the country's consumer confidence level as "stable" as compared with that in the first half.

The survey—conducted online from Sept. 22 to Oct. 6, 2008 with 26,202 respondents worldwide—showed that the country's consumer confidence level rose three points to 102 from the level recorded in the first six months of the year. This put the country at 9th place among 52 countries that were surveyed.

During the previous edition, the Philippines ranked 8th out of 52 countries.

The global average is 84, and South Korea had the lowest rating with 36.

In the Asia-Pacific region, Filipino consumers ranked 7th from a field of 14 nations, and one of only four countries that exhibited an increase in confidence level.

Cid said that the strong consumer confidence was likely because of falling fuel and rice prices—two of the most volatile components of inflation—as well as the sustained volume of dollar remittances from expatriate Filipino workers.

2009 growth target may be raised

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine economy is likely to grow faster than expected in 2009 because easing inflation aids a recovery in consumption and the government spends more on infrastructure, government officials said Thursday.

Inflation, as measured by the rise in the consumer price index, was 11.2 percent in October, slowing down from 11.8 percent in September and a 17-year-high 12.5 percent in August.

"With lower inflation, there is a possibility we might upgrade next year," Economic Planning Secretary Ralph Recto told reporters when asked about the 2009 growth target.

A Reuters source in government said the government would likely raise its target for next year's growth in the gross domestic product to 4.6-5.5 percent from 4.1-5.1 percent.

The Cabinet-level Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), an inter-agency body in charge of setting the economic and fiscal targets, will meet next week. ***(Reuters)***

10 tips to reduce Christmas spending

By MA. SALVE DUPLITO
INQUIRER.NET

I learned a few more things while preparing for my interview at ANC's Shoptalk, as well during the show and would like to share them with you:

1. Use a budget. Makes you consciously think of what you put in your shopping carts. Write a shopping list.

2. If you must shop, go for frugal shopping hot spots. The psychological rewards of saying 'yes' are the same whether you do it at Zara's or Divisoria.

3. Set aside a Christmas fund. In government finance, a sinking fund allows the government to set aside every month some money for future payments. We can do the same in our personal finances. A 12,000 budget for gifts and noche buena every year for example will not be as heavy when you prepare for it by setting aside 1,000 a month from January to December.

4. Don't forget the "hidden costs" of Christmas holidays, like contributions for company/church Christmas parties, Kris Kringles for children, etc.

5. The law of supply and demand in economics indicates that if you buy in January, you will get lower prices because demand is bound to drop. Not so, says Pia Hontiveros-Pagkalinawan, who is a self-confessed Divisoria shopper. She says that shop-owners have apparently realized that children who get cash gifts during Christmas time go shopping in January!

6. Be a bulk customer: contact your company's suppliers

7. Recycle gifts

8. Keep Christmas parties simple, go potluck!

9. Think of giving the gift of experience instead of toys

10. Don't go overboard buying toys. Some of the most expensive toys these days kill children's imagination

$$ PERSONAL FINANCE

Mutual funds or stocks?

By MA. ESTHER SALCEDO-POSADAS
MONEYSENSE

Beth Tan invests her money in stocks and mutual funds. Would she advise others to do the same? "The stock market is riskier so it depends on your appetite for risk. There are mutual funds that balance stock market investment with fixed income securities," she counsels.

When deciding whether to invest in mutual funds or stocks, here are four factors to consider:

TIME

The decision to invest in mutual funds or go directly in the stock market will depend on how much personal involvement you want in terms of time and effort.

If you like to watch the stock market, do research, get high on technical analysis, and you actually have a lot of time in your hands, then turn your passion into an income-generating activity.

However, if you don't have enough time to closely watch the stock market because of a day job or whatever reason, you're better off investing in mutual funds.

KNOWLEDGE

If your eyes glaze and you get a headache from reading financial statements and stock charts, better rely on professional advice. In the same way, if you do not have enough knowledge about mutual funds, your best bet is to find an expert.

If you have limited experience in both, mutual fund investing through a reputable institution should be a safer option than stock market trading.

RISK

By investing in mutual funds, you get instant diversification since your money is invested in various securities. Putting your money in a diversified portfolio equates to lower risk.

If you want to try your hand at the stock market, you can look at investing in a wider variety of stocks. This helps minimize risks since the ups and downs in prices across numerous stocks tend to negate losses with gains. The downside, though, is that this—rather than focusing on a few high-value stocks—means lower returns.

There is no such thing as complete security in mutual fund investing because your investment is not guaranteed and the value could wildly fluctuate. Then again, compared to the stock market, mutual funds remain the less risky route.

POTENTIAL RETURN

Some investors choose to invest in the stock market because the potential returns are greater, especially if you know how to pick the right stocks.

With online stock trading, you get to see the value of your portfolio in real time including the fees involved and other details. Online stock trading has made investing in the stock market friendlier for the average investor.

Citiseconline.com, for example, conducts free half-day seminars for interested participants who want to learn the concepts of stock market trading. According to Juanis Barredo, Citiseconline.com vice president, one may trade online and use the company's research tools and resources with just P25,000.

With stock prices at current discounted levels, now is the best time to explore this online investment tool. Just remember that by choosing the stock market, you become your own fund manager, and if you do not know what you are doing, you can lose money big time.

There is a lot of technical data that needs to be considered when deciding to buy or sell a stock, so much so that a new investor may get quite confused. The best precaution in mitigating risk, therefore, would be to educate yourself with the rules of the game (there are many ways to play the game).

It is also a good idea to start small so that you can learn from your mistakes without breaking the bank.

This article is from MoneySense, the country's first and only personal finance magazine. Visit www.moneysense.com.ph for more.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Nicole Kidman back in Down Under

Nicole Kidman has returned home to Australia to star in her latest epic romantic-adventure film, *Australia*, directed by Baz (Moulin Rouge!) Luhrmann and costarring fellow Australian Hugh Jackman. Ironically, she doesn't get to play an Aussie. The 41-year-old Oscar-winning actress—whose credits include *To Die For, Moulin Rouge!, The Hours, Cold Mountain* and *The Golden Compass*—stars as English aristocrat Lady Sarah Ashley in the epic film set in northern Australia during World War II.

When Lady Ashley arrives in the outback to take over a sprawling ranch she has inherited, she reluctantly makes a pact with a cattle drover (Hugh Jackman) to protect her new property from a takeover plot by cattle baron King Carney (Bryan Brown). This leads the pair, along with a young Aboriginal boy, Nullah (Brandon Davis), to drive 2,000 heads of cattle over unforgiving landscape to Darwin, where they experience firsthand the bombing of that city by Japanese forces. Married to Australian singer Keith Urban, Nicole gave birth to their first child, daughter Sunday Rose, on July 7. *Australia* opens soon in theaters everywhere.

AP

In this image released by 20th Century Fox, Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman are shown in a scene from, "Australia."

What does this movie mean to you?

It's a movie I dreamed I would be able to make as a little Australian girl. I wanted to make a film in Australia about Australia, and even though this is not a historical or political film, it has an essence in the same way as the films I grew up on, like *Gallipoli, Man From Snowy River* and *My Brilliant Career*, and all those films that molded me. Hopefully, the generation behind me will watch this and be inspired by our film, too.

What do you think is the appeal of this film outside Australia?

Probably just to watch the scenes that Baz consistently chooses in his movies, because he is deeply romantic about family, land, love and a sense of freedom in terms of setting people free: You can't possess someone; you have to let them come back to you or walk away. Those sorts of themes are very universal. It's epic in its sensibility but it is very simple and fun, and set against landscapes in a country that hasn't been really explored on this level before.

What can you say about Lady Ashley's journey in this film?

It is ironic to go back to Australia to play an Englishwoman. But I become sort of what the essence of an Australian is, which is, I think, a survivor. I get stripped of all my barriers and pretenses and get stripped down and become this very raw, sensitive available human being. The film starts in a place of humor as far as Lady Ashley coming to Australia and not being ready for what she has to deal with. Baz is a unique filmmaker and it has his stamp on it, so there is a lot of humor that filters through and a quirkiness that is very Baz.

What kind of preparation did you have to do?

I have ridden horses all my life, but I'd never learned to crack a stock whip and I'd certainly never learned to do any cutting, which is what you do with cattle on a horse. So I had to work hard at that but, at the same time, I didn't need to do much else working with Baz because he and I have a language that is very established. He doesn't even have to talk to me and I understand him. He can just breathe and I know what his breathing means. I've worked with him on such a deep level that there is this tacit understanding.

How did you and Baz come up with your character?

The thing people don't understand is that the way it always starts with Baz is so small. At the beginning of the film, when we were trying to find the character, they came to Nashville and we were in a hotel room with a suitcase and a hat and a couple of props, and I'm on the back of the couch pretending to be on a horse and he's got the little video camera saying, "OK, NK, pretend you're riding to Drover!" It's like shooting a student film, and that is how we started. And that's the sensibility throughout the whole film, no matter what the scope. There were days where there was a very joyful, very abandoned approach to the creative process for all of us.

How was it working with the cattle?

At first it was terrifying, but then it was addictive. To be up in Kununurra (northern Australia) in this extreme heat on the salt flats, riding and rounding up and cutting cattle, when else am I ever going to get the chance to do that? When I arrived in Kununurra and felt the harshness of that land and the heat, I thought I'd last two days there. But at the end of shooting there for two months, I was looking around to buy property, so that's how that land and that area captivated me. I hope more people go up there and see it because it's uncharted territory even for a lot of Australians. This is the equivalent of Africa in its own beautiful Australian way.

Were there any surprises about making this film?

I knew it was going to be physically demanding and emotionally demanding. There wasn't anything surprising because when I embark on a film with Baz, I know it's going to be extreme, so I'm prepared. Nothing happens in a small way. We had rain in torrential downpours and it never rained once up there for 11 years until we got up there. Then there was the equine flu, where suddenly the horses couldn't travel, so there were all of these big things. I got pregnant and I never thought in my lifetime that I would get pregnant and give birth to a child, but it happened on this movie. We had seven babies out of this film and only one was a boy. So there is something up there in that Kununurra water; we all went swimming in the waterfalls up there, so we call it the fertility waters now.

How was this experience working with Baz after Moulin Rouge!?

I deeply love him; words can't describe my devotion to him. It's been said that I would walk over hot coals through fire for him, and I probably would if he asked me. He's such a dedicated artist and a great human being. His enthusiasm and joy and love of life are inspiring, and I think that is why his movies do well. As much as they encompass love and loss and stories that aren't necessarily happy endings, they are still full of hope because he is the opposite of a misanthrope.

How did you feel about Russell Crowe not being able to do the movie and Hugh Jackman stepping in?

I believe actors end up doing the films they are meant to do for the right reasons. My commitment was to Baz and I would hope I get to work with Russell one day, but I was thrilled to be able to work with Hugh. He is so honest and open and just such a good man. I knew him before but I got to know him on this film in a far different way. There is a lot of mystery to Hugh, which is good. People say there is mystery to me and I'm pleased about that, because I don't think you should have to reveal everything and every part of you shouldn't be known—that's left for your loved ones. I also think that helps artistically, because then you can abandon into some parallel universe where you both exist as actors and artists, and you hope that out of that something good comes out. But Hugh is such a movie star, he glows.

How was your relationship with the Aboriginal child in the film that plays your surrogate son, Nullah?

He is just a magical child and his whole family is very magical. He has some special thing that orbits around him and we were very lucky to find him because he's not an actor; so capturing him on-screen, you had to grab the moments and what I call the glimpses of his soul.

Were you a fellow actor, friend or mother on set with him?

I think I was all those things rolled into one, but he could make my day just by coming up and throwing his arms around me and hugging me. That melted me. I love affection, and that's why I love working with children because they are openly affectionate if you get them at the right age. He has such childlike qualities even though he's entering the phase of becoming a young man; but he was still in those moments of being a child. ***(Business Mirror)***

Mark and Jennylyn 'together' again

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Mark Herras and Jennylyn Mercado are working together again. "Happy ako na nakabalik na si Jen," Mark enthused. "Mas matured na siyang mag-isip after manganak."

Doesn't he have plans of wooing her back? "Ayoko munang ma-involve sa personal life niya. Kaka-comeback pa lang niya. Pero 'di ko talaga masabi what will happen. I'm happy to be her friend and ninong to her baby AJ."

Their closeness has transcended the "kilig" level. "It's been three years since we broke up. Di na kami pa cute lang. Dami na naming napagdaanan as individuals. We're stronger than before."

Jennylyn Mercado is back in show biz but not (yet) in Mark Herras' clutches.

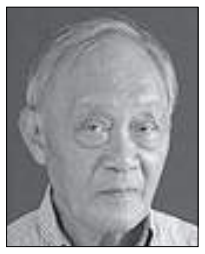
Like a winner

Iza Calzado almost made it to the final list of nominees for Best Actress in the International Emmy Awards. "I already feel like a winner even if di ako umabot sa final cut of choices," gushed Iza. "I was surprised because I forgot that our show 'Joaquin Bordado' submitted episodes to the Emmy's. I'm grateful that God gave me another source of inspiration. Being noticed by a prestigious award-giving body is fulfilling enough."

Emmy or no Emmy, Iza will show off her acting prowess in four gripping episodes of "Obra" every Thursday of November (after GMA Telebabad). She portrays a woman possessed by an evil spirit with a sinister past in "Sanib"; a female boxer torn between the man she loves and her father's dream for her in "Boksingera"; a losing contestant in beauty pageants who is determined to win a crown even if she joins gay beauty contests in "Beauty Queer"; and an assassin who wants to change her life but her profession keeps haunting her in "Stella .45."

Maharlika – Opinion

Hopes and fears about Obama in Asia



ANALYSIS
By AMANDO DORONILA
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Philippine relations with the United States have entered a period of uncertainty with the election of Barack Obama as America's first black president, the first member of an ethnic minority to be elected head of state of any major democracy in the Western world.

This is what makes Obama's election fundamentally significant as a moment of transfer of power. In fact, it is more significant than the election in 1994 of Nelson Mandela as the first black president of South Africa after being voted into office by his country's black majority, following the dismantling of the apartheid regime. Obama rode a landslide of votes from a national electorate in which the African-Americans are in the minority, winning support from a large segment of the white majority. This is one dimension of the change that took place in Tuesday's election.

Foreign relations and the domestic economy policy have been declared by Obama as the topmost items of his administration's agenda of change.

In his victory statement, Obama said, "It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this day, in this election, at this defining moment, change has come to America." Against this euphoric rhetoric, the pivotal question has emerged: In what form will change take place?

Obama's victory was greeted with high hopes and expectations in most of Asia which is looking to an administration in Washington that would engage the rest of the world, especially non-white and culturally diverse Asia, in diplomatic dialogue instead of deciding issues of war and peace unilaterally. But fears were also expressed in many parts of Asia that the takeover of Obama would herald the advent of protectionist policies in Washington. Tao Wenzhao, a researcher at the Institute of American Studies at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, said, "I am a bit worried that Obama will take some tough positions on trade issues." *The Wall Street Journal* reported that while there was excitement about the change in US leadership in India, there was also worry that Obama would target the outsourcing of jobs in a bid to protect American jobs during a period of recession. During the campaign, Obama had said that if elected, he would discourage US companies from "shipping jobs overseas" by taking away tax breaks.

These fears were shared by key sectors of Philippine business. The Makati Business Club said the local business community was concerned over the direction of the new administration on trade policies affecting the Asian region. The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) echoed India's concerns over the possible loss of outsourcing of jobs. The PCCI recalled that Obama had said during the campaign that he would penalize US firms "that outsource jobs abroad." It said, "We will have to see what form that will take, but that is a concern for us."

On the broader aspects of Philippine-American relations, things do not augur well for warmer relations with the Obama administration. The signals from Washington have been ominous for the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The new White House staff gave President Arroyo a frosty reception when she tried to congratulate Obama for his victory. Obama was not available to take her call. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said, "A phone call was put, but she wasn't able to speak with him."

It was the second time Obama rebuffed the President. During her working visit earlier this year, Ms Arroyo sought to talk with Obama, but he wrote her a letter saying: "I am sorry I will not be in Washington, and therefore will be unable to meet with you in person. I look forward to meeting you in the future, and to working with you to advance the critical partnership between our nations."

In a statement greeting Obama, Ms Arroyo said, "On behalf of the Filipino nation and the Filipino people, I congratulate Sen. Barack Obama on his election. We look forward to closely working with Senator Obama in strengthening regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, as well as in addressing the concerns of World War II veterans here and in the United States…."

In diplomacy and bilateral relations, there's such a thing as reciprocity. From the looks of these developments, it does not appear that Obama is giving as much priority to RP-US relations as the Arroyo administration is giving them. There is no need for President Arroyo to hurry into Obama's favor. It is enough that that she sent a routine greeting.

President Diosdado Macapagal snubbed an invitation to visit Washington from President John F. Kennedy and moved Philippine Independence Day to June 12 from July 4, after the US Congress failed to legislate compensation for Philippine war damage claims.

There's much in the strategic security position of the Philippines in Asia-Pacific today that Obama cannot ignore. The Philippines is one of the few countries in Asia where there is a significant US military presence. We don't need the President's presence in Washington to make this point to Obama. She should play our cards well and make him work out our relations with the United States on our own terms.

EDITORIAL

Election lessons

By now, it is a familiar joke. There exist many variants, but the gist can be summed up simply enough: When it comes to election fraud we Filipinos can teach Americans a thing or two.

Are you laughing or crying? In truth, Americans have bitter experiences with election irregularities too. Most infamously, the 2000 general election in Florida showed the world the seamy side of American elections. In that contest, voter suppression—a longstanding practice with deep roots in the Deep South—reared its ugly head.

Happily, the US presidential election of 2008 largely went as anticipated. The electoral exercise drew the biggest number of voters, with the highest turnout in at least two generations. Because of the landslide proportions of Obama's victory, voting irregularities have not mattered.

An undisputed victory, however, frees us to focus on the way the US elections were conducted, and the way Obama and his rival John McCain campaigned. These, from the vantage point of Filipinos struggling with flawed elections, are the true lessons of Nov. 4.

We understand the criticism hurled against both Obama and McCain, about running the most negative campaigns in history. It bears emphasizing that, for the most part, the two campaigns were conducted on issues: tax reform, healthcare coverage, the Iraq war, and so on. There were very real differences between the competing campaigns.

We point to the role played by media networks in "calling" the results of the state and the national elections. In some instances, a state was called for Obama or McCain even though the number of precincts reporting was still in the single digits. This could only have happened because the entire system is based on trust: trust that the exit polls provided reliable information, that the networks were competent to judge the state of a race, that the political parties would respect the "calls."

We note that McCain conceded the election only about three hours after the first polls closed, and that Bush made a congratulatory call to Obama within the same hour. It is important to realize that the election results won't be official until January next year, and that in the absence of a federal equivalent of a Commission on Elections, competing media networks would race to declare the winner. For politicians to declare victory or accept defeat based on what in the Philippines would be considered merely preliminary information is nothing short of astonishing.

Not least, we point to McCain's gracious concession speech. In the Philippine context, a concession means giving up the opportunity to manipulate the results. That is why concessions are the rarest commodity in the political business.

It is vital to note that conducting fair and fast elections is not a question of technology. India, for instance, is a much larger democracy with low-tech voting equipment, but it manages to meet the test of political maturity: fair elections, with credible and complete results. We have much to learn from the Indian and, yes, the American experience. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Problems with names

LOOKING BACK
By AMBETH OCAMPO
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

There is a website that deals with names. My name generated this useless information: First, "42% of the letters are vowels. Of one million first and last names we looked at, 22.8% have a higher vowel makeup. This means you are well envoweled." Second, "In ASCII binary it is... 01000001 01101101 01100010 01100101 01110100 01101000 00100000 01001111 01100011 01100001 01101101 01110000 01101111." Third, "Backwards, it is Htebma Opmaco." Fourth, "in Pig Latin, it is Ambethway Ocampoway." Fifth, "People with this first name are probably: Male or female...We don't know yet. We're working on it!" Sixth, there was nothing on word or name origins. Seventh, my personal power animal is a "Giant Weta" (whatever that is). Eighth, "Your 'Numerology' number is 4. If it wasn't bulls**t, it would mean that you are practical, tenacious, traditional, and serious. You are well organised and have a strong work ethic." Ninth, "According to the US Census Bureau, fewer than 0.001% of US residents have the first name 'Ambeth' and 0.0072% have the surname 'Ocampo'. The US has around 300 million residents, so we guesstimate there is only 1 American who goes by the name Ambeth Ocampo."

Further surfing revealed that: I share the name "Ambeth" with an Indian Member of Parliament, Shri Ambeth Rajan. There is an Ambeth Street in Farmington, Michigan, USA. There is a tour guide in Intramuros who doesn't know me or my work and probably copied his spiel from Carlos Celdran. There are a number of Filipinos, both male and female, with the same nickname, and on YouTube there is a plump woman in shorts named "Ambeth" who dances seductively. (You can spend hours on the Net on sites infinitely more engaging than porn.)

After four columns on names, naming, and pseudonyms in Philippine life, this will be the last for a while.

Today I share an email response. From Rudy Coronel: "Indeed, 'Names can be fun' (Philippine Daily Inquirer, 10/24/08)! Your column suddenly resurrects this once-upon-a-time related experience of mine. It was our town fiesta, and there was to be a Mass baptism in our parish. My first-born, Rubelyn (I coined it from my and my wife Belen's names) was among the 'newborns' awaiting the occasion. Inside the church, the priest first assembled us—parents, children and sponsors—side by side into a semi-circle, then one by one asked each child's name prior to conducting the simultaneous ritual. On hearing my daughter's name, the Among remarked with unconcealed insult: 'Oh, you people are really fond of unChristian names. Call her Maria Rubelyn!' We meekly said, 'Amen!' When the father next to me was asked his child's name, his immediate reply was: 'Tigre po, Padre!' ['Tiger, Father!] That all the more provoked the clergyman's temper, as he retorted: 'Bakit, hayop ba yang anak mo?' ['Why, is your child an animal?'] To which the unperturbed father answered: 'Gusto ko lang pong lumaki siyang matapang, Padre! Paris din marahil noong isang ama na nauna ninyong tinanong at sa naging tugong Leon po, Padre, ay 'di kumibo. ['I want him to grow up brave, Father! It's like the way the father you asked and you said nothing when he replied, Leon, Father.']

"Well, whatever else happened next in the church is beside the point. The point is, what can you say about such commonplace stupidity of some priests as I have related? I couldn't care less about the Tigre or Leon thing! The sad thing is many, many years thereafter, my daughter, who had since adopted Maria Rubelyn in all the schools she attended, was denied a passport when she applied for one, because the name in her original birth registration was only Rubelyn. In hindsight, I should have probably gone back to the civil registrar after my daughter's baptism to have her registered name amended to include the additional name given by the priest. But could the civil registrar, in those days, just do that without a court order? Besides, to be honest, which father could be so intelligent and exceptionally farsighted as to have thought of that, if he were in my shoes.

"At any rate, thanks to a so-called Angara Law (I haven't yet read it), my daughter's problem was solved. According to a lawyer-friend of mine, that law allows simple changes in one's name in the Civil Register without court action. But here's the rub! In our midst and times, when everybody wants to go abroad and direly needs a passport, and given the countless other people who had once been a 'victim' of the Church in the same way I was, it is unfortunate that most civil registrars have been making a killing out of the situation by charging exorbitantly prohibitive fees for quite a very simple clerical process. Maybe, the true objective of the law along this light needs to be revisited."

Frankly, I am seriously considering going to court to change my awful baptismal name (it's not Ambrosio) into my professional name. I wouldn't be surprised if my NSO certificate will yield another name. My mother was close to 70 when she had to get an NSO certificate for a passport application. All her life she was known as "Belen" but her civil registry read "Valeriano." If you think getting a man's name was bad enough, Valeriana was the name of her wicked stepmother! My mother assumed that when the priest or civil registrar asked for the name of the child, the stepmom, who was hard of hearing, gave her own name. Then, the clerk, also hard of hearing or stupid, or both wrote down "Valeriano." I know of similar cases but will not mention them here to protect the innocent.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

CARDIO & PILATES CENTER FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Parents watch their children try one of the many fitness equipment available at the New Palms Cardio and Pilates Center at Palms Resort Saipan. Palms Resort recently held a successful open house for the Cardio & Pilates Center and its New Business Center.

TOTAL SPORTS FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Members of the Northern Marianas Badminton Federation participate in the recent Total Sports Experience initiated by Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) Inc. at Ada Gym in Susupe. Many youths and parents joined in the successful family sporting event.

TRICK OR TREAT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Surfer dude Christian Michael Songsong Demapan, son of Frank and Carol, poses with his toy surfboard as part of his Halloween outfit during trick-or-treating at the American Memorial Park on Oct. 31, 2008.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Demapan family with Ate 'Glamour Girl'' GenGen Puntilar during trick-or-treating at the American Memorial Park on Oct. 31, 2008.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Ninia, who is celebrating her birthday today, Nov. 8. Greetings come from your friend, Garrie.

BIRTHDAY GIRL

Reika Jucel Ramirez celebrates her 7th birthday on Nov. 1 at the Palms Resort Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The birthday girl blows the candles on her cake.

Rachel Ramirez serenades her sister, Reika Jucel, during the celebration for her 7th birthday at Palms Resort Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

One for the history books

Barack Obama spent Wednesday getting used to a new title: president-elect.

Whether you supported the 47-year-old Democrat or his Republican opponent, John McCain, you have been a part of history. When he takes the oath of office on Jan. 20, Obama will become the nation's 44th president and its first African-American one.

Obama won a solid victory; he won states, including Virginia and Indiana, that usually vote for Republican candidates.

PRESIDENTIAL FACT

Barack Obama, who is 47 years old, will be the fifth-youngest president when he takes the oath of office in January. Theodore Roosevelt was the youngest at age 42. ***((c) 2008, The Washington Post)***

More than 135 million Americans voted, the most ever. Although kids can't vote in real elections, many of you participated in mock elections. In one election held by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Obama got 89 percent of the vote. Obama was also the big winner in the KidsPost online vote.

The U.S. election isn't big news in just this country. People around the world watched the results and celebrated with signs, tears and hope.

AP

President-elect Barack Obama waves to his supporters after delivering his victory speech at his election night party at Grant Park in Chicago, Tuesday night, Nov. 4, 2008.

"Out of many, we are one."
—President-elect Barack Obama

But even amid the celebration, Obama recognized that being president of the United States is the hardest job in the world.

"The road ahead will be long," he told supporters in Chicago on Tuesday night. "Our climb will be steep. ... But, America, I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you, we as a people will get there. ***((c) 2008, The Washington Post)***

Giving girls a voice in history

By TRACY GRANT
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—As the author of more than 50 "American Girl" books, Valerie Tripp knows a lot about bringing characters to life. But the Silver Spring, Md., writer was not quite prepared for seeing the adventures of her character Kit played out on the big screen of movie theaters. With "Kit Kittredge: An American Girl" out on DVD next week, KidsPost caught up with Tripp to talk to her about the movie, her writing and her favorite American Girl.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Valerie Tripp, author of more than 50 "American Girl" books, was not quite prepared for seeing the adventures of her character Kit played out on the big screen of movie theaters. With "Kit Kittredge: An American Girl" out on DVD next week, KidsPost caught up with Tripp, shown here at a Silver Spring, Md., bookstore, to talk to her about the movie and her writing.

Q. How did it feel to see your characters on screen?

A. It's a very strange experience. It's very unusual to hear words that you've heard in your head spoken and brought to life in motion, color and music on that giant screen.

Q. Kit Kittredge lives through the Great Depression. What lessons can kids today—given the uncertain economic times—learn from her?

A. Kit's story is very much my mother's story. ... Usually I just invent the characters, and their stories are shaped by the main problem of the time. In the case of Kit, I had been listening to my mother's stories for my whole childhood. Her father lost his job. To keep their house, my mother and her mother became cooks and maids and took in boarders. My mother had to move out of her room into the attic, which Kit did. But my mother found that the people who moved into her house ... changed and enriched her life in ways she had not foreseen. Sometimes something that appears to be a loss actually leads to a gain that you never would have had.

'AMERICAN GIRL' AUTHOR FACT

When "American Girl" author Valerie Tripp gets stuck on a writing project, she plays frisbee with her dog. "I'm happy to have my puppy to goof off with for a bit." ***((c) 2008, The Washington Post)***

The absolutely crucial message of the Kit books is that ... the most important thing that you have ... is your family. Though the circumstances of your life may change, that most important thing—the love of your family and friends—won't change. It may strengthen.

Q. You write about girls who live during World War II (Molly), the American Revolution (Felicity), New Mexico during the 1800s (Josefina). Who is your favorite—or at least what's your favorite time in history?

A. Whoever I'm writing about at the time! I get to live in that time and soak up the music, the fabric, the fashion of that time. Since I just finished a book about Ruthie, I'm very much into the period of the 1930s now. When you write, it allows you to have a personality that you wouldn't have. For example, Felicity is much braver than I would be. You can create your best self and send that self out into adventures.

Q. What's the hardest part of writing?

A. When I go to schools to talk to kids I bring a manuscript that I have that is filled with big Xs through whole pages, things circled in red, Post-it notes sticking out. It's hard when you've worked on something that hard and you hear that (the publisher) isn't going to use it ... but writing requires a lot of patience. You wouldn't stop playing soccer because you get tired or thirsty. Sometimes the things that are hard for us give the most back to us. But that moment is still very hard.

How does it feel to be famous?

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Have you ever wondered how it would feel to be famous around the world?

We decided that the best folks to answer this question would be young people who are about as famous as it gets right now.

So we found two who are starring in the country's hottest movie, "High School Musical 3: Senior Year."

Corbin Bleu, 19, who plays Chad, and Ashley Tisdale, 23, who plays Sharpay, were happy to tell us about the moment they realized they were famous and how it affected them.

For starters, Bleu and Tisdale said that it is easy for them to be well known because the kids who approach them in public for autographs are nice and respectful.

They both started in show business when they were 2 years old—as models at the same modeling agency. But it was their parts in the original "High School Musical," which aired on the Disney Channel in 2006, that changed their lives.

Tisdale said she remembers realizing how famous she was when she went to a Cheetah Girls concert at a big theater in Los Angeles. At the concert, she ran into Zac Efron, who plays Troy in "HSM," and they talked. Kids recognized them. There was so much screaming that both had to be taken backstage.

FAME FACT

When Time magazine asked its readers to name the 100 most influential people of 2008, Shigeru Miyamoto—the video-game designer who created Mario, Zelda and Nintendogs—won with almost 2 million votes. ***((c) 2008, The Washington Post)***

"They were chanting, `Ashley, Ashley.' I thought Ashley Simpson was in the audience," Tisdale said.

Now, she said, she is recognized wherever she goes, but she doesn't mind when kids ask her for autographs. And she doesn't try to hide who she is.

What she likes, she said, is getting to do the kind of work she always wanted to do.

"It has given us a lot of opportunities to work and travel," she said. "The fans are so amazing."

Bleu said his newfound fame has changed the pace of his life; he is always very, very busy. But he said it has not changed who he is.

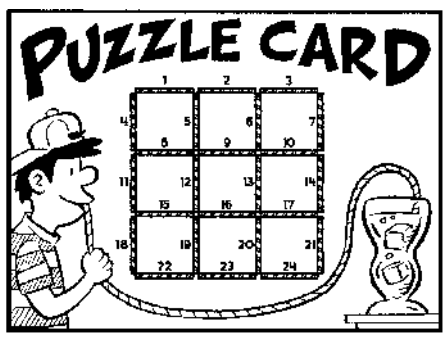
Bleu says he realized he was famous right after the first "HSM" movie came out. He was in Hawaii filming a television show and took a break to go to a carnival. He said he got "mobbed."

"It was very weird but very fun," he said.

When he wants to go out and not be recognized, he ties his hair back and pulls a hood over his head. But, like Tisdale, he doesn't mind being approached by kids.

"I've always kept a pretty sane head about it," Bleu said. "I am all about the work I do. Not about being famous."

PUZZLE CARD



SIP AND SOLVE! Your problem is to remove six straws from the 24 shown here and have three squares left.

Answer: If you remove straws 5, 6, 8, 13, 15 and 16, you will be left with three different-sized squares.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

1.	H							E
2.		H					E	
3.			H			E		
4.				H	E			
5.				E	H			
6.			E			H		
7.		E					H	
8.	E							H

FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Using the definitions and the anagrams below, find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

Illustrated by David Coulson

DEFINITIONS:	ANAGRAM:
1. Known to recede with time.	hail + rein
2.. Sailor songs.	sine + chat
3. Helps cold sufferers.	shin + real
4. Very intelligent people.	gags + heed
5. Gets you into tight places.	nosh + hero
6. Lost all its color.	ache + bled
7. Promises to marry.	rest + both
8. Hour before the end.	vent + heel

Answers: 1. Hairline. 2. Chanteys. 3. Inhalers. 4. Eggheads. 5. Shoehorn. 6. Bleached. 7. Betroths. 8. Eleventh.

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I'M A FEELING ALL PERSONS DETEST
ALTHOUGH I'M BY EVERYONE FELT;
BY TWO LETTERS I'M FULLY EXPRESSED,
YET, IT'S WITH FOUR THAT I'M ALWAYS SPELT.

Answer: AN – envy.

DON'T GET "ANTSY" SOLVING THIS ONE! In this puzzle all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with ANT. The following hints should help:

1. Picnic pest (in place).
2. A poker stake.
3. An extravagant act.
4. Pointy decoration.
5. Great for heartburn.
6. Words of opposite meanings.

1. ANT
2. ANT_
3. ANT__
4. ANT___
5. ANT____
6. ANT_____

Answers: 1. Ant. 2. Ante. 3. Antic. 4. Antler. 5. Antacid. 6. Antonyms.

Old tricks for new dog

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have a new dog! What are some basic tricks I can teach her?—Tammy J., Huntsville, Ala.

DEAR TAMMY: Congratulations on bringing home a new member of the family! There are many tricks you can teach a dog to perform, but I'll cover just three. These should be taught following basic obedience training (which includes sit/stay and down commands). Each session should last about 30 seconds; let her play for a while afterward.

Shake Hands: Popular and easy to learn, this is a nice skill for puppies to have, especially when visitors arrive. Begin teaching Shake Hands after she has developed a good response to the Sit/Stay commands. Once she is sitting, pick up one of her paws gently, release it and give her a treat. Do this for a couple of days, and then add a verbal command, like "Shake hands" or "Say hello." Give her a reward after you say the command.

Play Dead: Another easy trick, once she follows the "Down" command, you can progress to "Roll Over." Give her the "Down" command, and note which side she leans toward. Gently push her over onto that side, and give her verbal praise and a belly rub. Follow up with a reward.

Roll Over: Once she masters "Play Dead," start from that position. First, desensitize your puppy by rubbing her belly and touching her legs and feet while she's in the Play Dead position. Once she's used to this, give the command "Roll over," take hold of the back and front legs closest to the floor, and very gently pull her over to the opposite side. (If she gets frightened or is in pain, stop immediately.) Reward her with a treat or toy. (Or, tempt her around with a treat: Show her the treat, then slowly move it up around the back of her head to the other side. She may follow it around, rolling over automatically.)

No matter what trick you teach your dog, she'll love the attention, so make this training a regular part of your day!

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was Andrew Jackson Young, American civil-rights activist, former U.N. ambassador, congressman and mayor of Atlanta, who made the following sage—and disturbingly accurate—observation: "Nothing is illegal if 100 businessmen decide to do it."

■ Those who study such things claim that by the time the average American reaches the age of 20, he or she has been exposed to more than a million advertisements.

■ The United States has more dogs than any other country in the world, followed by Brazil in second place and China in third.

■ Just to see what would happen, a group of scientists gave various drugs to spiders. The arachnids that were given caffeine created webs with random tangles, making them useless for catching insects. Interestingly, the ones that were given LSD created extremely neat webs. It's unclear whether the scientists performed this experiment for research or just for fun.

■ Moscow has more billionaires than any other city in the world. And, except for one—the mayor's wife—they're all men.

■ The next time you're heading to Boston for a little R and R, you might want to consider stopping by a rather unusual attraction. The Museum of Bad Art describes itself as "the world's only museum dedicated to the collection, preservation, exhibition and celebration of bad art in all its forms."

■ The word "wedlock" originally referred to money given to the groom by the bride's father (presumably for taking the girl off his hands).

■ Have you ever experienced xerophthalmia? If you're like most people, you probably have, but it's not usually a condition to be terribly concerned about. Xerophthalmia is simply a fancy way of describing an abnormal dryness of the eyes.

■■■

Thought for the Day: "The nice thing about egotists is that they don't talk about other people."—Lucille S. Harper

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MAGIC MAZE ● SIX —

L H E C Z X U S Q N L J G R E
C S E E R G E D Z X V T R E P
N L F J H E A C R R A R Y D W
V L I A N Y N N E P A C K N T
R P G N W L K D T L I G E I C
B Z U A M A N F O O T B A L L
X W R U S U R M O P O M L Y D
J I E G T E R D F B N A Y C E
X W S E D A P S F O U U T S D
Q P E R E T O O H S G A L F I
O F N Y O J N A B G N I R T S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Day War	Flags	Of spades	Sided
Degrees	Footer	Pack	String banjo
Feet under	Gun	Penny nail	Year molar
Figures	Man football	Shooter	

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	x		–		10
+		–		÷	
	–		x		4
x		x		+	
	+		+		13
9		15		9	

1 2 4 5 6 7 7 8 9

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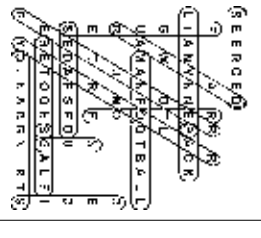
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	6		15		9
13	7	+	5	+	1
	+		x		x
4	4	x	6	–	7
	÷		–		+
10	8	–	9	x	2

Healthy lunchbox makeovers

"Sit on your bottom,
Face your food,
Hands to yourself,
It's time to eat!"

These are the words of greeting from Shannon the lunchroom aide, as elementary students eagerly enter the cafeteria every day. "It's important to set the tone so that kids have a positive experience during this short, 25-minute block in the school day," she told me. "Students have to eat to be good learners."

As she glides around benches and darts between long tables, helping kids open milk cartons or loosen tight thermos lids, she reminds kids not to trade food (there are too many food allergies) and, while it's encouraged to visit with neighbors, to use indoor voices, please.

Shannon has seen a lot of lunches. I was curious for a good story, so she told about the day she opened a thermos lid and, to her surprise, found a hot dog in hot water instead of the predictable soup or leftover spaghetti from last night's dinner. A bun and two packets of ketchup were packed alongside.

While peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are still a childhood classic, packed lunches are going through a makeover as both parents and kids take time to think healthy over the noon hour. I did my own snooping around and noted fewer prepackaged, high-fat foods in favor of fresh fruit, whole-wheat wraps, hard-boiled eggs (with shells removed), yummy green salads, veggie dippers and dips, yogurt and milk.

If your lunch-packing routine is already in a rut this fall, try these tips to get back on track:

■ Get kids involved: When they take ownership of making their own lunches, it's likely the food won't be thrown into the trash or traded. Start by shopping together. There are many healthy choices today and lots of practical lessons in the grocery aisle. You might ask, "Should we buy a case of individually wrapped pretzels, crackers and trail mix or instead buy big boxes and make single-size portions in reusable lunch containers ourselves?"

■ Create a lunch-making "deli station": Designate one drawer close to the breadbox, fruit bowl and refrigerator to store lunch bags and coins for purchasing milk and juice. Set aside a section in the refrigerator devoted to sandwich makings. Cut up and chill veggies at the beginning of the week, and they'll be ready to add to lunches in the morning.

"The grandkids are coming!" tip: When a preschool grandchild comes to visit while an older sibling is at school, pack fun lunches together. Cut out sandwich shapes with cookie cutters, decorate lunch bags with stickers and enjoy a fall walk and a backpack picnic in the park. Bon appe'tot'!

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

ABC's coverage of Election Night tops ratings

NEW YORK (AP)—A record-setting 70 million-plus viewers watched election returns Tuesday night, which proved to be historic for cable TV and Web news consumption just as it was for Barack Obama.

It was no doubt the most people to use those mediums to follow election returns. Nielsen Media Research doesn't have complete historical viewership figures, but the 47 million homes following the story on TV was the most ever.

Web sites run by MSNBC, CNN and ABC News all shattered records for traffic on Tuesday. The top site Yahoo! News saw its page views up 80 percent over the 2004 campaign.

The numbers seemed a fitting conclusion for a campaign that startled news executives at nearly every turn with the intensity of public interest, from debates to primary nights to conventions and even a prime-time infomercial.

Nielsen measured viewership on 14 separate networks that aired returns, not including PBS, C-SPAN and the Fox Business Network, none of which are rated by the company.

ABC News had the most prime-time viewers, according to Nielsen's preliminary estimate. But stretch that coverage to 12:30 a.m. EST, which would include John McCain's concession speech and Obama's victory appearance in Chicago, and CNN was watched more than any network.

Newspaper vendor Chad Smith displays copies of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, left, and The Seattle Times, featuring the election of President-elect Barack Obama, that he had set aside for himself before the editions sold out at the Read All About It newsstand in Seattle's Pike Place Market Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008.

AP

Not only is that CNN's biggest audience in a nearly three-decade history, it proved that a cable network could beat the major broadcasters on a big event. That's an important change from even four years ago, when more viewers turned to ABC, CBS and NBC on Election Night.

"We've got this brand for reliable and trusted news that's on the top of the mind for viewers when they want to watch big events," said Jon Klein, CNN U.S. president. "More frequently, we're on the top of the mind when they just want to know what's going on during an average day."

The challenge for CNN has always been keeping viewers when things quiet down, when opinionated lineups for Fox News Channel and MSNBC have more consistent appeal.

For the major broadcasters, it was the first election with ABC's Charles Gibson, NBC's Brian Williams and CBS' Katie Couric as the top anchors.

ABC had 13.1 million viewers during the prime-time hours, defined as 8 to 11 p.m. CNN had 12.3 million, NBC had 12 million, Fox 9 million, CBS 7.8 million, MSNBC 5.9 million, the Fox broadcast network 5 million and the Spanish-language Univision 4.1 million, Nielsen said.

MTV Awards swept by Obamamania

LIVERPOOL, England (AP)—Obamamania met Beatlemania Thursday, as Liverpool hosted an MTV Europe Music Awards show energized by the city's musical heritage and the U.S. presidential election.

Pink and Kanye West took home prizes—Britney Spears won two—and stars on the stage included Beyonce, Kid Rock and former Beatle Paul McCartney.

But the absent president-elect was given star status, too.

Singer Katy Perry, who hosted the show and also was named best new act, appeared in a dress emblazoned with Obama's face and quipped that "maybe Europeans will love us again now."

Her co-host, 30 Seconds to Mars singer Jared Leto, wore an Obama T-shirt and urged the 10,000-strong crowd at Liverpool's Echo Arena to yell "Congrats, Barack."

Hometown pride was also on display in the Beatles' birthplace, with McCartney receiving an "ultimate legend" award from U2 singer Bono.

Bono hailed the ex-Beatle as "St. Paul McCartney" and the "one person in this hall tonight whose work is immortal."

McCartney's acceptance speech was more modest. "I want to thank my mum and dad," he said, going on to pay tribute to his bandmates in The Beatles, the people of Liverpool and Americans, "for voting in Senator Obama."

Backstage, McCartney said he had a song he thought the new U.S. leader would like for his wife, Michelle Obama—the Beatles ballad "Michelle."

Host Perry emerged at the start of the ceremony in a U.S. football uniform and straddling a giant tube of Chapstick - a reference to her song "I Kissed a Girl" that set the tone for a slick, lightly sassy show with plenty of star power.

Jackson: It's weird Mac didn't see 'Soul Men'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Samuel L. Jackson doesn't feel normal promoting his latest film "Soul Men" without costar Bernie Mac.

In the movie, which opens Friday, Jackson and Mac play former bandmates who embark on a zany cross-country road trip to perform at the memorial concert for their deceased lead singer. Mac died of complications from pneumonia in August after production on the film ended.

Jackson

"It's even weirder that he never saw the movie," Jackson said.

The "Lakeview Terrace" and "Snakes on a Plane" star called Mac a friend and said the "Ocean's 11" co-star would attend and perform comedy at Jackson's golf tournament in Bermuda. Outside of filming "Soul Men," Jackson said he didn't get to spend much time with Mac, who starred "The Bernie Mac Show," the Fox comedy series that aired from 2001 to 2006.

"We used to talk about blowing up and being famous and doing all this stuff and all of that," said Jackson. "Then, when he got famous, he was here in L.A., and I never saw him because he was too busy doing his TV show every day. I didn't go by and bother him, but I would run into him at functions, and we got to get together."

The end of "Soul Men" features a dedication to Mac and Isaac Hayes - "two real soul men." The singer, who died in August after suffering a stroke, appears in the film as himself. Among the footage is Mac cracking up extras with an impromptu standup routine and an interview with Mac discussing his career in which the comedian says he cherishes "each doggone moment" of his life.

"I haven't quite processed that Bernie is gone," said "Soul Men" director Malcolm D. Lee. "I see the movie. I know in my head that he is gone, but it will probably hit me most at the premiere when everyone is around. Right now, I have just been concentrating on making the best film possible on top of that paying homage to him and Isaac (Hayes) at the end of the movie. When it's all finished and said and done, and I get it out to the public, I think that's when I will realize he is gone."

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Madagascar Escape 2 Africa
Friday 4:10 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:25
Mon and Tue 4:10 7:25
Ben Stiller, Chris Rock
Comedy, Animated • Rated PG
Synopsis
Continuing adventures of Alex the Lion and his best friends Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe and Gloria the Hippo.

Role Models
Friday 4:20 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:00
Mon and Tue 4:20 7:00
Seann William Scott, Paul Rudd
Comedy, Drama • Rated R

Soul Men
Friday 4:30 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:15
Mon and Tue 4:30 7:15
Samuel L. Jackson, Bernie MAc
Comedy • Rated R

★ ★ ★

Zack and Miri Make a Porno
Friday 4:15 7:20 9:50
Saturday 1:25 4:15 7:20 9:50
Sunday 1:25 4:15 7:20
Mon and Tue 4:15 7:20
Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks
Romantic Comedy • Rated R

Beverly Hills Chihuahua
Friday 4:05 @ @
Saturday 1:00 4:05 @ @
Sunday 1:00 4:05 @
Mon and Tue 4:05 @
Drew Barrymore (v), Andy Garcia (v)
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

High School Musical 3
Friday 4:00 7:10 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:00 7:10 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:00 7:10
Mon and Tue 4:00 7:10
Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale
Musical • Rated G

Eagle Eye
Friday @ 7:05 9:35
Saturday @ @ 7:05 9:35
Sunday @ @ 7:05
Mon and Tue @ 7:05
Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13

Max Payne
Friday 4:25 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Mon and Tue 4:25 7:30
Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

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2 'Oprah' debuts: 'Mr. Man' and will.i.am video

CHICAGO (AP)—Becoming an instant election celebrity can be a burden—just ask Joe the Plumber—but "Mr. Man" is apparently ready to shoulder it.

The man whose shoulder Oprah Winfrey cried on during an Election Day rally in Chicago will appear with Winfrey Friday on a live episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show," Chicago-based Harpo Productions said.

Colleagues have identified the man as Sam Perry, a Barack Obama campaign worker from California. Coworker Karen Wark said Perry worked at the Silicon Valley for Obama office, but didn't give further details.

Winfrey thanked the guy on Wednesday she called "Mr. Man" for letting her cry on his shoulder, while noting that she didn't know him.

Perry didn't immediately return an e-mail message from The Associated Press and a Silicon Valley area telephone listing for Sam Perry was being changed Thursday.

AP

This Sunday, Dec. 9, 2007 file photo shows President-elect Barack Obama, center, his wife Michelle, right, and Oprah Winfrey as they wave to the crowd at a rally in Manchester, N.H.

Also debuting on Friday's "The Oprah Winfrey Show" will be a new, slightly delayed Obama music video from will.i.am.

The Black Eyed Peas leader had said "It's A New Day" would debut on dipdive.com Wednesday, the day after Obama was elected. Will.i.am's publicist now says Oprah will debut the clip, with other celebrities on hand, and that dipdive.com will then post it later in the day.

Mos Def sought in Vegas over camera scuffle

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Mos Def was being sought by police on an arrest warrant stemming from a scuffle with a photographer at a fashion trade show last August, authorities and the alleged victim said Thursday.

"I had no idea who the man was," said Volker Corell, 60, a Los Angeles-based photographer who said the 35-year-old rapper and actor, whose real name is Dante Terrell Smith, ripped his camera from around his neck Aug. 26.

Corell said he was credentialed to represent a trade publication, and was taking photos at the Men's Apparel and Garment Industry Convention in Las Vegas when he was allegedly attacked. He said the last four photos before his camera was broken clearly show Smith reaching toward him.

"The last shot was his hands in front of the lens," Corell said.

Investigators expected Smith would turn himself by the end of the week to face a warrant charge of felony robbery and misdemeanor malicious destruction of property, Las Vegas police spokesman Ramon Denby said.

Mos Def's publicist, Carleen Donovan in New York City, did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

The warrant was issued Tuesday, said Michael Sommermeyer, a court spokesman.

'Girls Next Door' co-star engaged to NFL player

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One of Hugh Hefner's live-in girlfriends is trading the grotto for the gridiron.

The Playboy mogul said in a statement Thursday that "The Girls Next Door" co-star Kendra Wilkinson is engaged to Philadelphia Eagles receiver Hank Baskett. The 23-year-old model-actress has lived with Hefer since 2004 and currently co-stars as one of his three girlfriends in the E! reality series.

"I have given her my blessing and will be giving her away at a very special wedding ceremony at the Playboy Mansion this coming June," Hefner said.

The 82-year-old publisher's love life has been in flux. Last month, he and "number one" girlfriend Holly Madison called it quits. Twin 19-year-olds Karissa and Kristina Shannon are currently living with Hefner.

AP

In this July 16, 2008 file photo, Kendra Wilkinson arrives at the ESPYs Awards in Los Angeles.

Former 'Hills' star loses civil case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former "Laguna Beach" personality Jason Wahler owes a tow truck driver $5,000 in damages for a confrontation more than two years ago, a jury in his civil trial found Thursday.

Dario Stevenson said Wahler punched him in the face and hurled racial slurs at him and other blacks during a fight in September 2006. Eight women and four men decided that Wahler committed battery during the scuffle.

Wahler, who also appeared on "The Hills," acknowledged testimony that he used racial slurs. Jurors rejected justifications by Wahler's attorney that his client was defending his girlfriend and was too drunk to know what he was saying.

AP

In this Oct. 9, 2008 file photo, reality TV personality Jason Wahler arrives at the Gen Art and SOYJOY Fashionably Natural fashion show in Los Angeles.

Wahler's attorney declined to comment Thursday after the verdict.

Stevenson, who is black, claimed he suffered emotional distress from Wahler's slurs. Jurors agreed the celebrity's conduct was "outrageous," but did not find that Stevenson suffered severe emotional distress.

Jurors will return Friday to hear testimony and decide whether Stevenson deserves punitive damages. The driver's attorney had hoped the jury would award Stevenson up to $1 million, but because of the small award announced Thursday, damages will be capped around $55,000.

While disappointed with the amount, Daniel Wagner, who represented Stevenson, said he was pleased that the jury found Wahler acted maliciously.

"This case was to right a wrong," he said.

Madonna says LA show will go on as scheduled

NEW YORK (AP)—Madonna isn't going to let lighting and technical issues keep her from performing at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles.

A statement from her publicist, Liz Rosenberg, says construction of the singer's stage came to a halt Wednesday due to an equipment malfunction.

Madonna

Although damage to the top of the stage created several lighting and technical issues, Madonna decided to go ahead with Thursday night's show.

In an e-mail to The Associated Press, Madonna says: "Even though my stage roof was damaged and some lights and effects aren't working, I want to do the show anyway because I don't want to disappoint my fans."

Teen's fear keeps her out of the driver's seat

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am 19, female, smart, responsible and friendly. I also have a terrible fear of driving. I have read driving manuals, but I'm scared to be in control of a big vehicle with so many other vehicles on the road.

I always found an excuse not to sign up for driver's ed in high school, and have refused countless offers from friends and family to teach me. My response was always, "No, I'm not ready."

All my younger relatives have driver's licenses, and I do feel I am missing out on things. How do I overcome this fear? Do I just say yes to my friends or family when they offer again? Please tell me what to do.

NON-DRIVER IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR NON-DRIVER: Having the fear of driving that you do, you should not get behind the wheel of a car until you have first consulted a professional counselor who specializes in helping people with phobias. My concern is that you might overreact out of fear and cause an accident.

Once you have mastered your fear, then who should teach you is up to you. However, I am recommending you learn from a professional driving instructor. It will be safer for all concerned.

DEAR ABBY: I would like to have a relationship with my granddaughter, "Zoe," who is 10. My son refuses to have anything to do with her. He was 16 when he got his girlfriend pregnant. He is now 26 and married, with a 9-month-old child. His wife won't have any part of his little girl.

Should I step in and be a grandmother, even if my son and daughter-in-law may never talk to me again? Zoe doesn't even know her father. Why can't I give her the love she deserves? She's the innocent one. Am I wrong?

YEARNING TO KNOW HER IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR YEARNING TO KNOW HER: No, you are right. You can give Zoe the love and attention she deserves if you refuse to allow your son and daughter-in-law to blackmail you. I'm sure the girl would appreciate knowing that someone from her father's side of the family thinks she's worth getting to know.

It's shameful that your son blames her for an incident that he'd rather forget, and frankly, it reflects poorly on him. However, while you can't control his behavior, you can control the way you react to it. Do what you think is right.

DEAR ABBY: Please say something to the clueless herd who have never been taught not to ask personal questions.

I have been asked everything—my age, weight, height, income, religion and what I paid for everything I own. I was once even asked if I had ever had serious marital problems.

Are people not taught common manners anymore? Everyone who asked me was well over 21 and should have known better. Please tell people how ignorant they sound, and how dumbfounded polite people can be when this situation comes up.

Oh! And while you're at it, please tell them to keep the details of their sex lives to themselves.

HORRIFIED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR HORRIFIED: To get to the heart of your letter—your question about whether people are taught common manners anymore—the answer, sadly, is no, very often they are not.

For anyone who is not aware, the questions listed in paragraph two of "Horrified's" letter are all off-limits as being overly personal. And unless someone is confiding in a trusted friend, to describe the details of one's sex life can be extremely embarrassing to the listener.

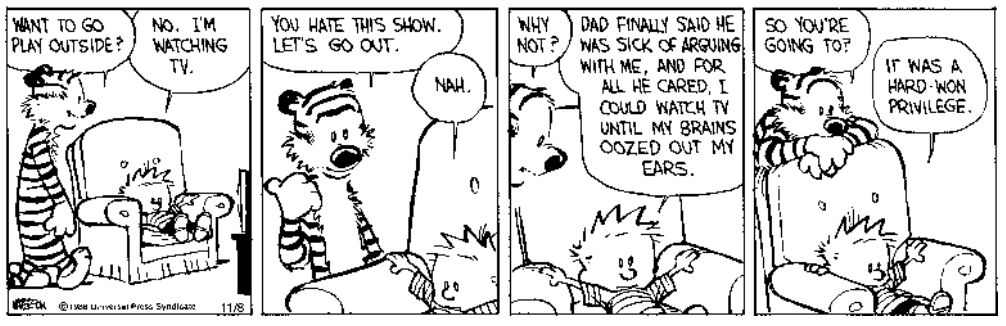
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WANT TO GO PLAY OUTSIDE?
NO. I'M WATCHING TV.
YOU HATE THIS SHOW. LET'S GO OUT.
NAH.
WHY NOT?
DAD FINALLY SAID HE WAS SICK OF ARGUING WITH ME, AND FOR ALL HE CARED, I COULD WATCH TV UNTIL MY BRAINS OOZED OUT MY EARS.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO?
IT WAS A HARD-WON PRIVILEGE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'LL TRY THE CHICKEN FINGERS.
SORRY. WE'RE FRESH OUT.
BOY, AM I STUFFED! I CAN'T EVEN FINISH MY CHICKEN FINGERS!
ONE ORDER OF CHICKEN FINGERS COMING UP!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Three, they say
6 Foolish folks
11 Evening affair
12 Memorized
14 Dr. Phil
15 Singer Barbara
16 Reaction to fireworks
17 Gold measure
19 Masseur's workplace
20 Carry
22 Scoot
23 Sax player's need
24 Follow
26 "Woman With the Hat" painter
28 Roulette bet
30 Atlanta-based health agcy.
31 Golf tally
35 Flat-bottomed rowboat
39 Earl Grey's family?
40 Enthusiast
42 "American —"
43 Samovar
44 Go back to brunette?
46 TV Tarzan portrayer
47 Folksinger Rod
49 Politico John
51 Threw stones
52 Light-intensity measure
53 Vichyssoise ingredients
54 Aspirations

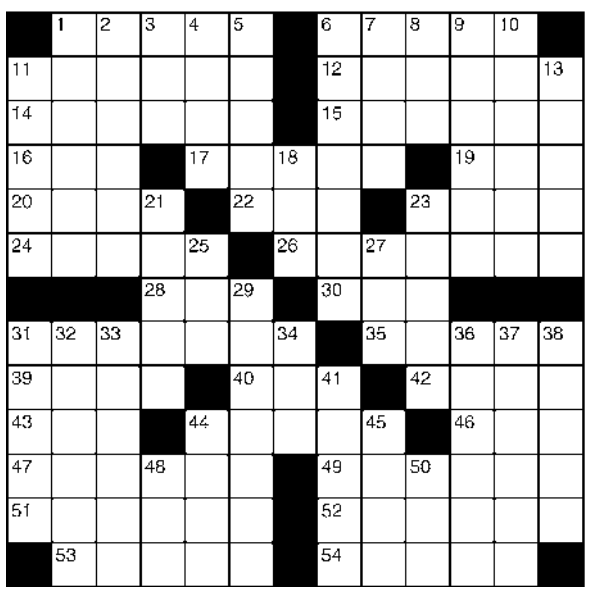
DOWN

1 Larval case
2 Privileges
3 Bobby of hockey
4 Frail
5 Flask named for a Scottish chemist
6 Annual publication
7 Denomination
8 Part of UCSD
9 Obliterates
10 "Passenger 57" star
11 Hit
13 Swap
18 Pirates' quaff
21 Continental cash
23 Lake of "Hairspray"
25 Comic-strip cry
27 Gridiron scores (Abbr.)
29 Protects
31 Thwart
32 Toyota subcompact
33 Irritate
34 Blue
36 Conceive
37 Page numbers
38 Movie swashbuckler
41 Mythological maiden
44 Stench
45 Reverberate
48 Multipurpose truck
50 Filch

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	E	S	T	S	■	S	P	A	■	F	D	A
A	T	T	I	C	■	T	I	M	■	L	O	G
S	H	A	R	I	■	E	P	I	T	A	P	H
■	■	P	E	O	P	L	E	■	A	R	E	A
A	W	_	■	N	I	L	■	O	B	E	Y	S
D	E	E	D	■	C	A	M	E	L	■	■	■
S	T	R	E	A	K	■	A	R	E	T	H	A
■	■	■	C	R	Y	P	T	■	T	A	I	L
B	O	S	O	M	■	A	I	M	■	P	E	P
O	V	I	D	■	J	U	N	I	O	R	■	■
W	I	R	E	T	A	P	■	C	L	O	S	E
E	N	E	■	O	D	E	■	A	L	O	U	D
R	E	D	■	P	E	R	■	S	A	M	B	O

Yesterday's answer 11-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jack Osbourne, 23; Tara Reid, 33; Parker Posey, 40; Bonnie Raitt, 59

Happy Birthday: Trust in yourself and have the confidence to put your plans on the table and ask for the assistance you require. Let your emotions show and your dedication will come across as honest and sincere. You must take control and follow your heart. Fight for your rights, your beliefs and your future. Your numbers are 6, 11, 18, 24, 26, 31, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't blurt out how you feel. You may have a change of heart tomorrow. Your current financial status with both business and personal partners is undergoing alterations. If handled right, you can benefit for a long time to come. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Avoid paying for others or meddling in affairs not directly related to you. A power play will develop between you and someone you are connected to through a group, business or circumstance. Let your actions speak for you. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): If you have been avoiding emotional matters, you may be forced to deal with them now. Don't make demands or give ultimatums. An added responsibility must be handled skillfully or you will ruin your reputation. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Get involved where the action is and you will discover some new friends who will add to your life and your future plans. The knowledge you gain through others' experience will be valuable and will help pave the way to better choices. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A move or change of scenery will do you good. You need to get things back on track and sort out who and what should continue to be in your life. Love may be on the line but you will know what to do in the end. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Go back to places where you have fond memories and something unusual will transpire. You will understand how you should live your life and what you can do to make things more compatible to your needs. Don't let a bad relationship, situation or temptation burden you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do whatever you engage in with passion, zest and the freedom to be who you are. Follow your creative dreams and analyze your current relationships. Decide who fits into your world and who doesn't. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Emotional security can be yours if you partner with someone who has much to offer you. A love relationship will manifest into much more by sharing your thoughts and intentions. Don't fear the unknown. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may feel like going into hiding if you made too many promises to too many people. You'll have to spread yourself thin in order to save your reputation. Avoiding the inevitable will only cause you stress and added grief. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You have positioned yourself well, so put your strategy into play. Surprise everyone with an unusual presentation and you will capture the attention and the backup needed. Don't let a change of plans throw you. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Give your future a boost by considering your options and moving toward a skill that will help bring you security. Choose a new direction or promote one of your ideas and you will prosper. Talk to an experienced mentor. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll be emotional and want to make impulsive changes that may cost you financially. Don't trust someone who is trying to sell you something you don't really need. Avoid temptation, especially if it can affect a business relationship. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a great debater, a good and loyal friend and a strong contender. You have the drive to succeed, reform, remake and redo until perfection comes into play.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3	6				5	
		8						6
	4				5		2	
			8					2
7		4		9	4	8		
	5		7				3	
2						9		
	6				3	1		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	4	6	7	5	9	8	3
6	8	7	9	2	3	4	5	1
3	9	5	4	1	8	2	7	6
5	4	1	8	6	2	3	9	7
7	6	2	1	3	9	5	4	8
8	3	9	5	4	7	1	6	2
1	5	6	3	8	4	7	2	9
4	2	3	7	9	6	8	1	5
9	7	8	2	5	1	6	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BOSTON SUBWAY SYSTEM **Solution: 9 letters**

S	M	U	S	E	U	M	B	R	O	A	D	W	A	Y
T	H	A	C	Q	U	I	N	C	Y	A	W	N	E	F
T	R	O	T	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	S	L	I	O
E	C	A	S	T	R	D	E	E	P	S	D	N	R	D
S	O	T	I	P	A	E	R	A	L	U	B	A	O	T
U	M	G	H	N	I	P	G	L	D	O	N	W	S	T
H	M	R	A	G	S	T	A	N	U	G	N	E	C	E
C	U	O	S	M	I	M	A	N	E	T	W	O	R	K
A	T	U	B	E	S	L	D	L	O	S	L	A	R	R
S	E	N	I	L	R	S	S	W	S	O	S	A	R	A
S	R	D	E	E	A	T	N	P	R	G	P	A	T	M
A	R	T	D	N	I	O	A	S	I	F	R	B	P	Y
M	O	N	I	N	L	P	D	E	A	R	M	E	G	A
Ⓗ	Ⓞ	Ⓜ	Ⓔ	U	S	S	E	R	H	H	T	A	E	H
W	E	A	S	T	R	E	E	T	S	T	E	E	M	N

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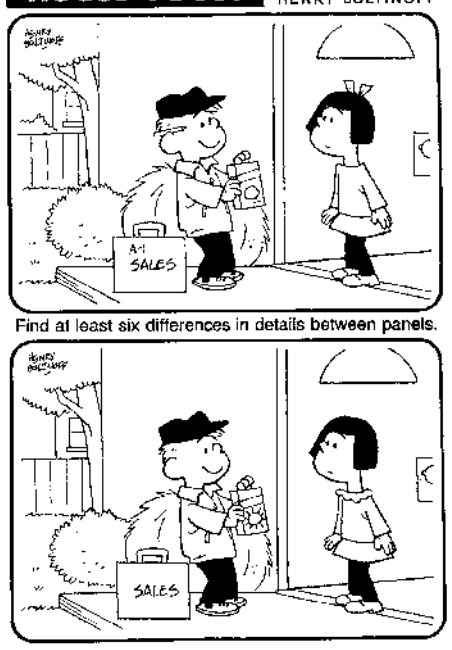
Area, Broadway, Colors, Commuter, Downtown, Dudley, East, Fare, Fenway, Green, Ground, Haymarket, Heath, Home, Hospitals, Hotels, Inbound, Light, Lines, Malls, Massachusetts, Mattapan, MBTA, Meet, Museum, Network, Orange, Park, Passengers, Quincy, Rails, Services, Speed, Stops, Streets, Theatres, Trains, Trips, Tunnel, Warm, West, Wonderland

Yesterday's Answer: Homestead

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Girl's bow is missing. 2. Collar is different. 3. Boy's pencil is gone. 4. Name on briefcase is different. 5. Shrub is missing. 6. Picture on box has changed.

Wishing Well®

8	4	2	4	3	6	8	3	4	3	4	6	7
A	D	O	O	Y	S	P	O	Y	U	O	U	D
3	2	6	5	6	8	6	3	8	4	5	2	4
G	T	R	T	P	P	R	A	L	U	H	H	R
2	8	3	6	3	6	2	3	2	8	6	2	7
E	A	I	I	N	S	R	A	S	U	E	E	E
2	8	3	4	5	2	8	6	5	2	7	6	8
N	S	P	V	I	V	E	G	N	Y	F	U	F
2	3	5	4	5	8	3	8	4	8	7	3	6
Y	P	K	E	Y	O	R	R	R	Y	I	O	E
2	7	6	3	4	8	7	2	8	3	6	3	7
O	N	S	V	Y	O	E	U	U	A	T	L	G
4	6	7	5	4	7	4	5	7	4	5	7	5
B	S	O	O	E	A	S	U	L	T	N	S	G

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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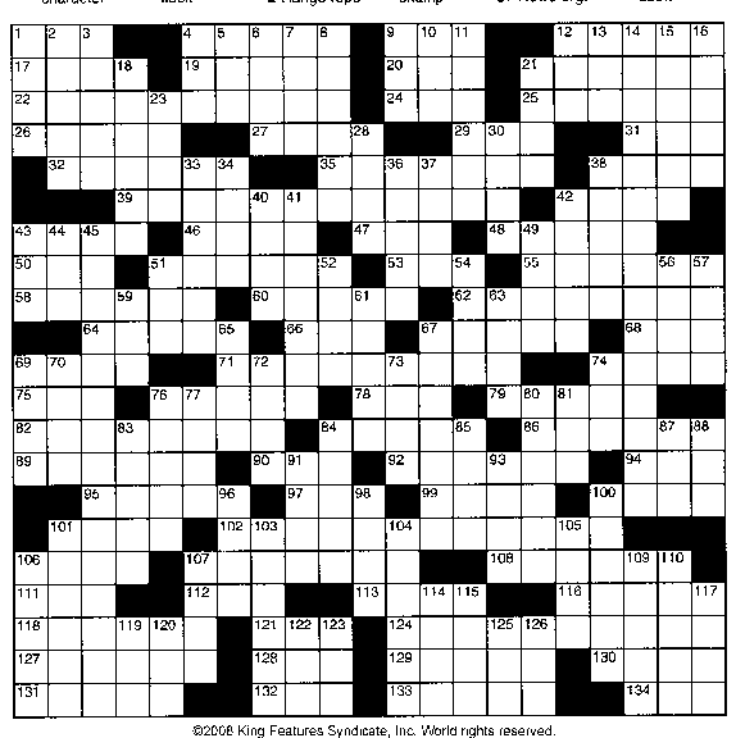
Super Crossword

WEATHER OR NOT

ACROSS
1 Collectibles, collectively
4 "Crocodile Dundee" star
9 "The — Hurt" ('59 hit)
12 Word form for "large"
17 Composer Janacek
18 Persian, presently
20 Zsa Zsa's sister
21 Mead subject
22 MISTY
24 Perfect score
25 Statistical foci
26 Vessel part
27 Utah city
29 SHAEF commander
31 Fasten a brogue
32 Lacking principles
35 Kid heaven
38 Unisex garment
39 SNOW
42 Pageant prop
43 Word with farm or frog
46 "Casablanca" character
47 "Stroker —" ('83 film)
48 Prepared to propose
50 Actress Hagen
51 Muslim title
53 Medical grp.
55 Left out
58 "Cabaret" setting
60 Feat
62 Sudden decline
64 Rover's restraint
66 Barcelona bravo
67 Turns soft
68 Compete
69 — Mawr
71 FAIR
74 Like May
75 W. Hemisphere grp.
76 Torrid and Frigid
78 Napa Valley vessel
79 Porthos' pal
82 Neighbor of Ethiopia
84 Park feature
86 Half the diameter
89 Diner patrons
90 Shaq's pack
92 Israeli coin
94 — -Locka, Fl.
95 Magna —
97 Terrier's titbit
99 Part of UCLA
100 Cut a cuticle
101 Extinct bird
102 RAIN
106 Actress Schneider
107 Heebie-jeebies
108 Folklore figures
111 Burro
112 Gray matter?
113 Annie Oakley's birthplace
116 Impressive tales
118 Big name in temperance
121 Sprite
124 HURRICANE
127 Kampala's country
128 Scand. country
129 Once more
130 Faxed
131 Intrinsically
132 — milk
133 "The Haystacks" artist
134 Stephen of "The Crying Game"

DOWN
1 Charity
2 Range rope
3 Symbol
4 — nibs
5 Hosp. areas
6 Sheffield slammer
7 Frank or Francis
8 "One of These —" ('75 hit)
9 Wager
10 "— had it!"
11 '82 Attenborough film
12 Damage
13 Saul, to Sartre
14 HEAT
15 Salad veggie
16 Attack
18 — Tuesday
21 Footfall
23 Calvary inscription
28 Bit
30 Hook up with Mir
33 Indians and Indonesians
34 Soothe
36 Marina sight
37 Watch part
38 Sound
40 Sale stipulation
41 Some computers
42 '92 US Open champ
43 Bathroom fixture
44 Hwy.
45 STORM
49 TV's "Empty —"
51 Security grp.
52 A shake in the grass?
54 Draft status
56 Malicious
57 Legal document
59 Actor Cariou
61 Novocaine target
63 — podrida
65 Suggestion
67 Robert of "Ryan's Daughter"
69 Augur
70 Punjabi prince
72 Chow —
73 Gets what one basks for
74 '60s chic
76 Bernardo's boss
77 Force out
80 Claire of "Key Largo"
81 "2001" computer
83 Like some eyes
84 Freighter
85 Coop crowd
87 News org.
88 Weaken
91 Match
93 Singer Eartha
96 "Lucky Jim" author
98 'Comin' — the Rye"
100 Successful dieters
101 Medical measure
103 Pericles' home
104 Guru's grounds
105 Director Nicolas
106 ". . . the mouse — the clock"
107 Novotna of tennis
109 Metric measure
110 Tantrum
114 Othello's ensign
115 In the twinkling — eye
117 Mlle., farther south
119 Office-holders
120 Lyric poem
122 London lavatory
123 Fish babies
125 "Pshaw!"
126 Bankbook abbr.



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who said, "Anger as soon as fed is dead—'Tis starving makes it fat."
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which well-known French actress appeared in Chanel No. 5 commercials in the 1970s?
3. TELEVISION: What kind of car did "Starsky and Hutch" drive?
4. MEASUREMENTS: How many yards are in a bolt of cloth?
5. MOVIES: Which recently released movie was directed by Joel and Ethan Coen?
6. AD SLOGANS: What company "has a way with b-o-l-o-g-n-a"?
7. INVENTIONS: Who is credited with inventing aspirin?
8. ART: Where is the Whitney Museum of Art located?
9. GEOGRAPHY: On which continent is the Great Sandy Desert located?
10. FOOD & DRINK: What are the ingredients in a Rickey cocktail?

Answers

1. Emily Dickinson
2. Catherine Deneuve
3. Ford Gran Torino
4. 40 yards
5. "Burn After Reading"
6. Oscar Mayer
7. Felix Hoffmann
8. New York City
9. Australia
10. Gin, lime juice and soda water

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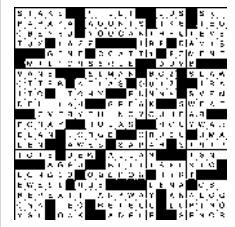
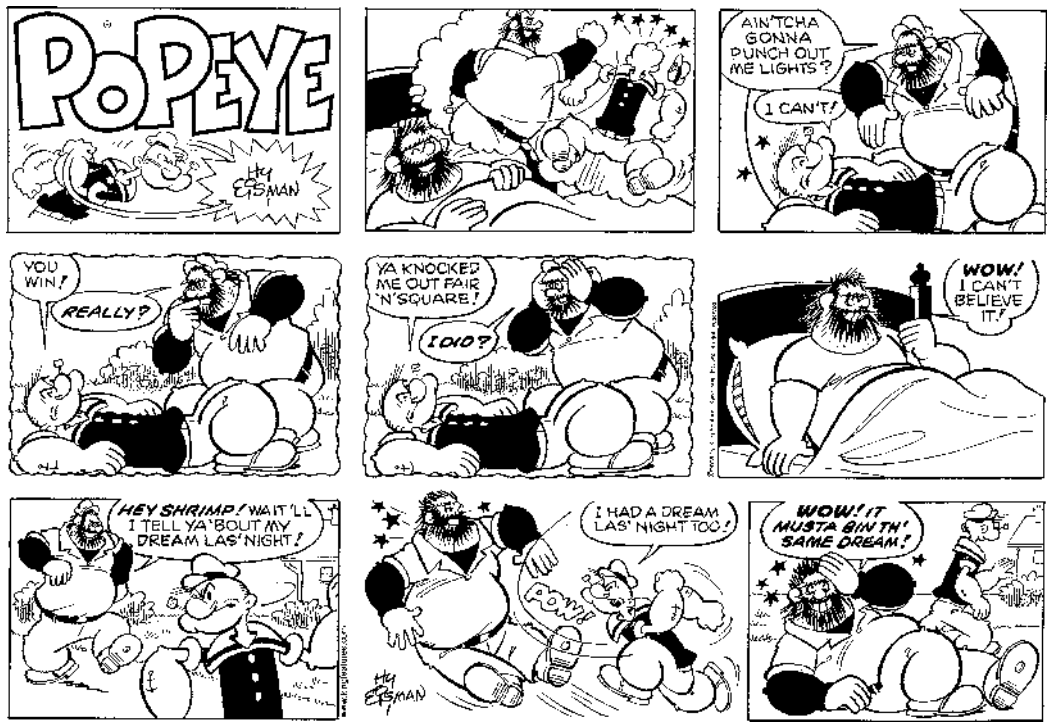
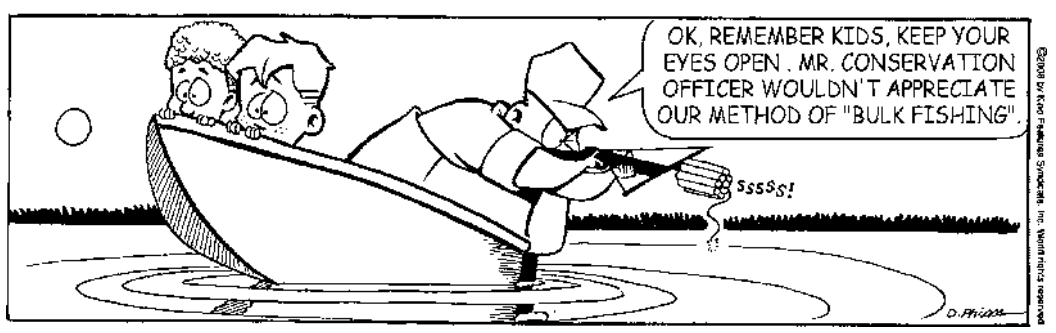
Saturday's Answers

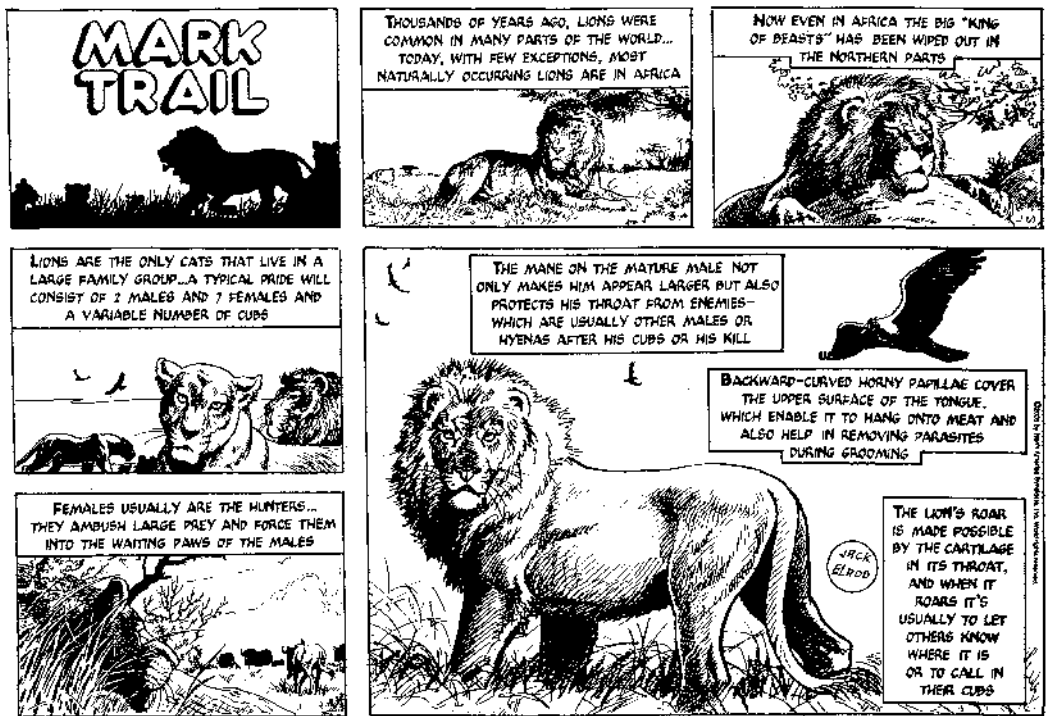


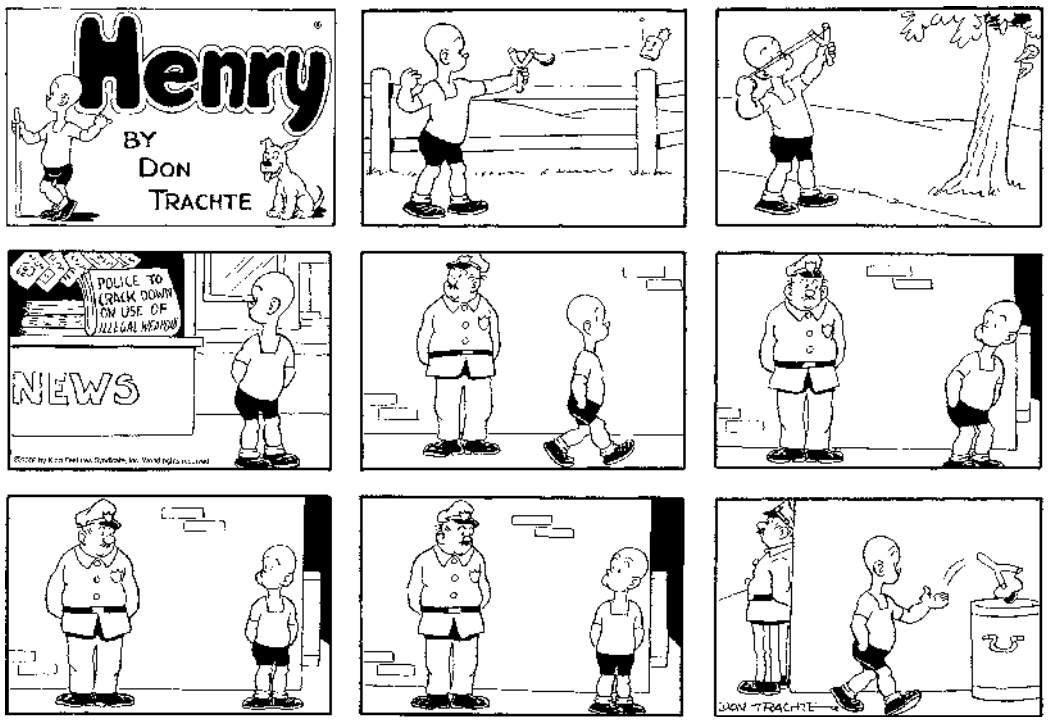

POPEYE
HEY ESSMAN
AIN'TCHA GONNA PUNCH OUT ME LIGHTS?
I CAN'T!
YOU WIN!
REALLY?
YA KNOCKED ME OUT FAIR 'N'SQUARE!
I DID?
WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HEY SHRIMP! WAIT'LL I TELL YA 'BOUT MY DREAM LAS' NIGHT!
I HAD A DREAM LAS' NIGHT TOO!
POW!
WOW! IT MUSTA BIN TH' SAME DREAM!

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats by Jeff Pickering


MARK TRAIL
THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, LIONS WERE COMMON IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD... TODAY, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, MOST NATURALLY OCCURRING LIONS ARE IN AFRICA
NOW EVEN IN AFRICA THE BIG "KING OF BEASTS" HAS BEEN WIPED OUT IN THE NORTHERN PARTS
LIONS ARE THE ONLY CATS THAT LIVE IN A LARGE FAMILY GROUP...A TYPICAL PRIDE WILL CONSIST OF 2 MALES AND 7 FEMALES AND A VARIABLE NUMBER OF CUBS
THE MANE ON THE MATURE MALE NOT ONLY MAKES HIM APPEAR LARGER BUT ALSO PROTECTS HIS THROAT FROM ENEMIES—WHICH ARE USUALLY OTHER MALES OR HYENAS AFTER HIS CUBS OR HIS KILL
BACKWARD-CURVED HORNY PAPILLAE COVER THE UPPER SURFACE OF THE TONGUE. WHICH ENABLE IT TO HANG ONTO MEAT AND ALSO HELP IN REMOVING PARASITES DURING GROOMING
FEMALES USUALLY ARE THE HUNTERS... THEY AMBUSH LARGE PREY AND FORCE THEM INTO THE WAITING PAWS OF THE MALES
THE LION'S ROAR IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE CARTILAGE IN ITS THROAT, AND WHEN IT ROARS IT'S USUALLY TO LET OTHERS KNOW WHERE IT IS OR TO CALL IN THEIR CUBS
JACK ELROD



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• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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This week's poll:
With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of new regulation

235- NEWS

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Cutler rallies Broncos past Quinn, Browns

CLEVELAND (AP)—Jay Cutler turned Brady Quinn's big night into his own prime-time showcase. Cutler passed for a career-high 447 yards, throwing three touchdown passes in the fourth quarter Thursday night—the last an 11-yarder to Brandon Marshall with 1:14 remaining—to rally the broken Denver Broncos to a 34-30 win over the Cleveland Browns that spoiled Quinn's highly hyped debut as an NFL starter.

The Broncos (5-4) entered the fourth quarter trailing 23-13, but Cutler, borrowing a page out of John Elway's comeback playbook, brought Denver back. He recorded his fifth career fourth-quarter comeback victory despite losing two more running backs to injuries and only having his fullback to carry the ball.

"It was a big, big win for us," Cutler said. "To be down 13 and have an empty backfield and to come back like this, it means a lot."

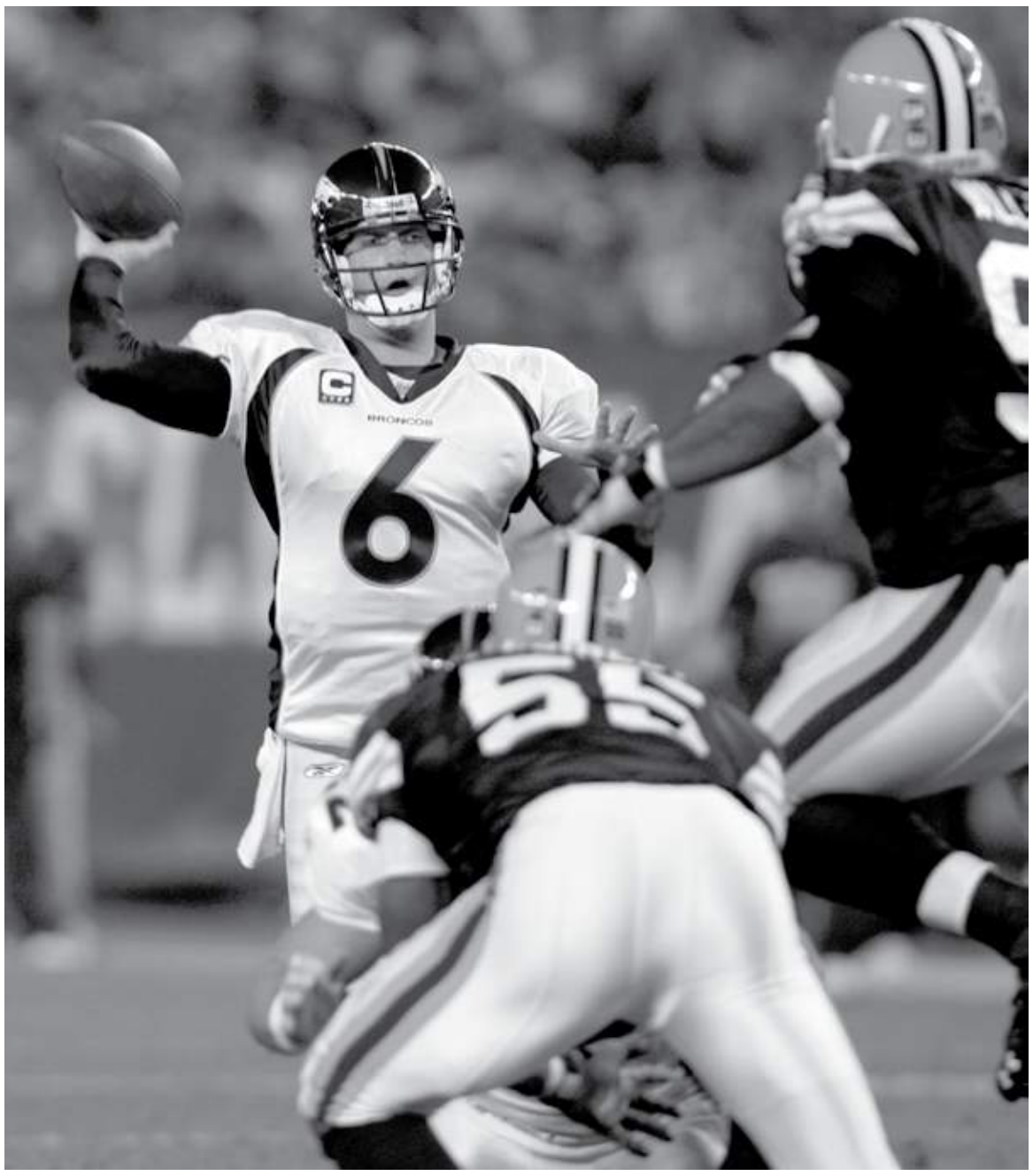
Cutler threw a 93-yard TD pass to rookie wide receiver Eddie Royal, a 28-yarder to tight end Daniel Graham and then finished off the Browns like so many Denver teams have done in the past with his toss to Marshall in the corner of the end zone.

The Broncos have beaten Cleveland eight straight times and been the Browns' longtime nemesis, beating them three times in AFC title games.

Cutler finished 24-of-42 with three TDs and one interception. He piled up 204 yards passing in the fourth quarter.

Quinn threw two TD passes to Kellen Winslow and went 23-of-35 for 239 yards, but thought he could have done more.

"I told everyone, this one is flat on me," Quinn said. "I know I am good enough that I can make a play at the end and win. I felt comfortable out there, it's my home away from home."



AP

Denver Broncos quarterback Jay Cutler (6) throws a pass against the Cleveland Browns in the second quarter of an NFL football game Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008, in Cleveland.

After hauling in Cutler's final TD pass, Marshall, who spent the week exchanging barbs with Dolphins linebacker Joey Porter, was about to pull something out of his pants when teammate Brandon Stokley ran over and stopped him from getting a possible personal foul.

After the game, Marshall said he had a black-and-white glove designed to honor President-elect Barack Obama and former Olympians Tommie Smith and John Carlos, who made controversial black power salutes at the 1968 Games in Mexico City.

Quinn had one last chance, getting the ball back with 1:10 remaining. The former Notre Dame star, who waited 25 games to take over Cleveland's offense, completed a 9-yard pass to Winslow on first down before two incompletions gave him no margin for error. On fourth down, Quinn whipped a high pass to Winslow that sailed through the hands of the Pro Bowl tight end.

"I just can't get that last play out of my head," Winslow said. "The great ones, the legends make those plays. That's where I want to be and I'm going to take it as a lesson."

Denver's bench burst into celebration while the Browns sustained another gut-wrenching loss after blowing a 14-point lead in the second half Sunday against Baltimore.

That loss cost Derek Anderson his starting job. He was benched by coach Romeo Crennel in favor of fan favorite Quinn, who made plays and was efficient moving the ball by throwing mostly underneath. Quinn completed passes to eight different receivers with Winslow catching 10 passes for 111 yards.

Quinn had the Browns (3-6) in position to win, but once again Cleveland's defense couldn't come up with a stop as Denver racked up 564 total yards.

"We let them throw the ball over our head, couldn't tackle and let the game get away," Crennel said. "It's disappointing that your defense can't do some simple things and does some other things poorly. A 93-yard touchdown pass should never happen—ever."

Royal had six catches for 164 yards and Marshall caught six passes for 89 yards.

Cutler was playing at a huge disadvantage with Denver's running game going backward because of injuries. It hardly mattered.

With starter Michael Pittman and backup Andre Hall already out with season-ending injuries, rookie Ryan Torain made his first start with third-year pro Selvin Young as his backup.

Torain scored on a 1-yard run in the first quarter but sprained his left knee midway through the second when he got bent backward underneath a pile of players. He was replaced by Young, who gained 2 yards on his first carry but left a few plays later with a groin injury and didn't return.

Those losses forced the Broncos to use fullback Peyton Hillis as their primary ball carrier, and the rookie from Arkansas came through on Denver's final scoring drive by blasting his way through the line for a crucial first down on 4th-and-1 at the Cleveland 45.

From there, Cutler completed a 14-yard pass to Graham before catching the Browns off guard with a quarterback draw for 18 yards. After missing Marshall in the end zone on first down, Cutler had his wideout run the same route against cornerback Brandon McDonald for the game-winner.

Earlier, McDonald was burned by Royal for the 93-yard TD, the fourth-longest in Denver history.

The Browns played up Quinn's pregame introduction, saving him to be the last player to run from the smoke-filled tunnel. He received a huge ovation from Cleveland fans, who despite having a Pro Bowl QB in Anderson, have spent many Sunday afternoons chanting "Bra-dy, Bra-dy" for most of the past two seasons.

Quinn didn't disappoint, throwing two TD passes to Winslow in the first half to help the Browns open a 20-10 lead.

With Broncos defensive end Elvis Dumervil in his face, Quinn hung in the pocket as long as he could before firing his first career TD pass, a 5-yarder to Winslow, to tie it 7-all. Winslow's scoring grab made up for the one he dropped from Quinn last season when the rookie QB made his pro debut in Cleveland's season finale.

It was a night the 25-year-old Quinn had dreamed of since he was a little kid in Dublin, Ohio. He grew up in the Columbus suburb cheering for the Browns and he still has a picture of himself wearing a No. 19 Bernie Kosar jersey.

In the days leading up to his first start, Quinn sought advice from his college coach, Notre Dame's Charlie Weis, a former offensive coordinator with New England.

"He gave me some words of wisdom," Quinn said, "as did everyone else - my mom, my dog."

Quinn's No. 10 jersey dotted every corner of Browns Stadium and a white bed sheet with "Save Us Brady" hung from the second deck.

But in the end, there was nothing he or anyone else in orange helmets could do to stop Cutler.

Owens says Cowboys let doubt creep in weeks ago

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Terrell Owens admitted what his Dallas teammates couldn't a month ago—at least publicly: The Cowboys were springing leaks long before Tony Romo broke his pinkie and their Super Bowl hopes started sinking.

Owens said doubt crept in as early as the first month of the season, when the Cowboys lost their first game against Washington then answered with an unimpressive victory against then-winless Cincinnati.

After beating the Bengals, the Cowboys complained about having to defend a win and reminded everyone they were 4-1. They did at least acknowledge that what they were saying for the cameras might be different from what they were telling each other. Owens said it for the cameras Wednesday, during Dallas' bye week.

"I think the loss to Washington made a lot of people raise a lot of eyebrows," Owens said. "I think those two games alone kind of let everybody in this locker room know you got to have sort of a self check like, 'OK, we're probably not as good as we think we are, or probably not as good as hyped.'"

The Cowboys went 1-2 without Romo after he injured his throwing hand during the first play of overtime in a loss to Arizona. The offense was anemic in all three games, even setting a franchise record for fewest yards in a win when they beat Tampa Bay 13-9.

But Dallas was 1-2 in the last three games with Romo, too, always scoring enough points to win but going through uncharacteristically long stretches of ineffectiveness on offense while the defense struggled to make key stops.

If they want to latch on to something positive, the Cowboys have this: The Redskins rematch—on Nov. 16—could be the first time on the field together for Romo, Owens, recently acquired receiver Roy Williams, tight end Jason Witten, running back Marion Barber and budding star Felix Jones, a rookie who backs up Barber and has emerged as a kickoff return ace.

Witten is trying to play through a broken rib from the Tampa Bay game, and Jones is expected to return after missing the same amount of time as Romo with a hamstring injury.

"When you go in with a full deck of cards, everybody in their starting positions, you go in with a lot of energy, high expectations, as we did earlier in the year," Owens said. "It seems like one by one, at different positions, guys have been going down. It's very unfortunate, but there are two halves to the season."

It's been three-fourths of a season since Owens had a 100-yard game. He's averaging less than four catches and barely 50 yards per game this season, but he hasn't come close to complaining about it since he was criticized for saying after the Washington game that he needed to get the ball more. He made the comments after catching seven passes, taking two handoffs and having 11 other balls thrown his way.

"I can sit up here and say I need the ball more, then you guys will go back and dissect how many balls are thrown my way so I'm not going to get into that," Owens said. "I know I am a playmaker. I've always been that, and I still consider myself that. I think it shows when I get my hands on the ball, things happen."

Instead of building the best record in the NFC like they did last year, the Cowboys find themselves in last place in the NFC East more than halfway through the season. But Owens says that hasn't changed the team's outlook.

"We're still a very confident group of guys," Owens said. "As a unit, we know why we aren't winning. We just have to get those mistakes corrected."

Roy sinks 3-pointer to give Blazers win

AP

Portland Trail Blazers' Brandon Roy (7) acknowledges the crowd after his three pointer with 0.8 seconds on the clock grabbed a 101-99 win against the Houston Rockets in an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008.

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Brandon Roy made a 30-foot jumper as time expired in overtime to lift the Portland Trail Blazers to a thrilling 101-99 win over the Houston Rockets on Thursday night.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points and nine rebounds for the Blazers, who snapped a five-game losing streak to the Rockets in a game that featured three dramatic shots in the final 1.9 seconds.

Roy first hit a turnaround 21-footer that put the Blazers up 98-96 and sent a sold-out Rose Garden into a frenzy. But Yao Ming scored and drew a foul against Roy on the other end with 0.8 seconds left, then made the free throw to give Houston the lead.

Portland called timeout and the inbounds play went to Roy, who swished the winner to send a charge through the delirious crowd.

Tracy McGrady scored 24 of his 30 points after halftime and Luis Scola had 14 for the Rockets (3-2), who absorbed a difficult loss in the opener a five-game road trip.

Roy finished 6-for-18 from the field and had 17 points for Portland, which last beat the Rockets on Dec. 20, 2006.

Portland led by as many as 10 in the fourth quarter but McGrady rallied the Rockets, and both teams had a chance to win it in regulation. Roy drove to the basket with 10.1 seconds left but Ron Artest got in front of him, causing him to kick the ball. McGrady couldn't convert an alley-oop inbound pass at the buzzer, sending the game to an extra period.

Blazers fans didn't get to see a long-awaited meeting between prized rookie center Greg Oden and Yao. Oden has been out since the first game with a sprained foot.

Yao, who was just 4-of-14 in Houston's 103-99 home loss to Boston on Tuesday, continued to struggle. He mad just four of 13 shots and had 14 points.

Rudy Fernandez scored five straight points in the fourth quarter to help Portland open an 81-71 lead.

But Artest hit a 3 at 7:02 and McGrady scored five straight points to cut the Trail Blazer's lead to 84-83.

Fernandez had 15 points for the Blazers. Aaron Brooks scored 14 for Houston.

Magic 98, 76ers 88

At Orlando, Hedo Turkoglu and Rashard Lewis scored 20 points apiece as the Orlando Magic overcame Dwight Howard's foul trouble to beat the Philadelphia 76ers 98-88 in the NBA on Thursday.

With All-Star center Howard limited to only four minutes in the first half, the Magic got strong performances from Tony Battie and Lewis, who picked up the rebounding slack as Orlando won its third straight game.

Thaddeus Young scored 19 points for Philadelphia, which placed four players in double figures. The Sixers cut a 23-point deficit to six in the fourth quarter but couldn't draw closer.

Rays' Carlos Pena wins TB's 1st Gold Glove

NEW YORK (AP)—Carlos Pena grabbed attention for all those balls he hit. Now the Tampa Bay first baseman and his teammates are getting noticed for the ones he caught. Pena raised the Rays' profile Thursday when he became the first player in franchise history to win the Gold Glove for fielding excellence. "I think this is the first of many for the Tampa Bay Rays," he said on a conference call.

"I feel like we all won the Gold Glove as a team," he added. "I think we all make each other better."

The Rays reached the playoffs for the first time since starting play in 1998. They went to the World Series, losing in five games to Philadelphia.

Texas shortstop Michael Young became the first infielder to win a Gold Glove from a team with the worst fielding percentage in the majors. Pena, Young, Boston second baseman Dustin Pedroia and Minnesota catcher Joe Mauer were first-time winners.

The outfield was a repeat from last season: Los Angeles' Torii Hunter and Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki each won for the eighth straight year and Cleveland's Grady Sizemore earned his second award.

New York Yankees pitcher Mike Mussina, coming off his first 20-win season, added to his accolades with his seventh Gold Glove. Seattle third baseman Adrian Beltre won for the second straight year.

Pena bounced around the majors for several seasons before joining Tampa Bay in 2007, and quickly got a regular spot by hitting 46 home runs.

Pena starred with the bat this year, too, with 31 homers and 102 RBIs despite missing 3 1/2 weeks because of a broken finger. He sparkled with the glove, making only two errors.

"I can't deny that I like hitting home runs," Pena said, but "this is an award I always thought of."

"You have no idea how excited I was when I received the news," he said. "Go steal a hit, go help your pitcher out. I've always taken so much pride in my defense."

The 30-year-old Pena has shown improvement in the field, cutting down from 13 errors with Detroit in 2003. He made eight last year with the Rays.

Pena said it had been his goal "to actually play like a Gold Glover and eventually get recognized."

"Carlos works very hard on his defense and he has turned himself into a premier defensive player," Rays executive vice president for baseball operations Andrew Friedman said.

Rawlings has presented Gold Gloves since 1957. Managers and coaches pick players in their own leagues near the end of the regular season, and can't vote for someone on their team.

Hunter has not made an error since Aug. 31, 2007. The AL outfield record for Gold Gloves is 10, shared by Ken Griffey Jr. and Al Kaline.

Pedroia, the AL Rookie of the Year last season, joined Kevin Youkilis (2007) and Jason Varitek (2005) as the only Red Sox players to win a Gold Glove in the last 17 seasons.

Young led AL shortstops in fielding percentage. This was his fifth season at the spot since switching over from second base.

Mussina won for the first time since 2003. At 39, he was the oldest AL winner this year; pitcher Greg Maddux won an NL Gold Glove this week at 42.

The Gold Gloves often raise the ire of many baseball fans. Critics claim the best fielders are overlooked in favor of more popular players, and further insist that better hitters get a break in the voting.

Hunter and Sizemore earned $100,000 bonuses in their contracts for winning Gold Gloves. Beltre and Suzuki got $50,000 each and Pena, Mauer and Young won $25,000 apiece. Mussina and Pedroia did not have Gold Glove clauses.

The NL Gold Gloves were announced Wednesday. Along with Maddux, winners were catcher Yadier Molina, first baseman Adrian Gonzalez, second baseman Brandon Phillips, shortstop Jimmy Rollins, third baseman David Wright and outfielders Nate McLouth, Carlos Beltran and Shane Victorino.

Troy Matteson's career-low round gives him Disney lead

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—It didn't take Troy Matteson long to realize it was going to be a special round of golf Thursday in the Children's Miracle Network Classic at Disney.

Matteson opened with an eagle on the Palm Course, ran off three straight birdies at the turn and wound up with a career-low round of 9-under 63 to take a one-shot lead.

"When you start like that, it kind of puts you at ease," Matteson said. "It was perfect out there today. I've been looking for the right feel, the right grip. And I just started making some putts."

Jimmy Walker, who needs a victory in the PGA Tour's final tournament to avoid going back to Q-school, opened with a 64 and was one shot behind with Scott Verplank and Kevin Streelman, who are both well inside the top 125 on the money list, the cutoff for keeping a card.

Former PGA champion Rich Beem, who needs to finish at least in the top five to avoid losing his card for the first time in 10 years, was among those at 65. Jeff Overton, holding down the 125th spot, opened with a 67.

The most notable round of the day might have been a 70 from Erik Compton, playing on a sponsor's exemption. The 28-year-old Compton received his second heart transplant just six months ago and recently advanced through the first stage of Q-school.

The PGA Tour granted him permission to use a cart, the first time someone has rode in a tour event since Casey Martin.

"I'm just dumb enough to think I could win this thing," Compton said. "It's not like we're out there boxing. We're trying to hit a golf ball into a hole. I feel like I have a really good golf swing, and I can putt the ball as well as anyone."

Matteson added another eagle on the back nine of the Palm Course, the first time he has made two eagles in a round since last year on the Palm Course at Disney.

Verplank, regarded as one of the better putters on tour, is finishing what he calls his worst year with the flat stick. He has failed to win, narrowly missed out as a captain's pick for the Ryder Cup and is 94th on the money list, his lowest position since 1997.

"I've been out here for 22 years, and this has been the worst putting year I've ever had," Verplank said. "But today, I felt like a kid again. I made the ones I should make. So hopefully, it will stick with me."

The season-ending tournament may lack for star power—most of the big names are in China for the European tour opener or don't play the Fall Series—but is filled with less obvious drama. It is critical for those on the fringe fighting to earn their exempt status for 2009.

Beem is at No. 139 and was joined in the group at 65 by Robert Garrigus (No. 141) and Robert Gamez (No. 190), who also needs a victory to crack the top 125. Winning, however, comes with a two-year exemption.

Among those who opened with a 66 were Stewart Cink, at No. 9 the highest-ranked player from the money list; and Davis Love III, who sewed up his card two weeks ago after a year spent recovering from ankle surgery.

Love is trying to cap off his year with a victory, and he could also extend his tour-record streak to 14 years earning at least $1 million. He would need to finish inside the top 10 to have a chance at that.

80 players expected for Rotary Golf

Saipan Rotary Club is expecting as much as 80 players to take part in tomorrow's 2008 District Governor's Charity Golf Tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Tournament director Ben Babauta said he is expecting the robust turnout despite the fund-raising event held only a day after the Inaugural Refaluwasch Golf Association Memorial Classic.

This year's Rotary golf tournament will have a double-peoria format with showtime set at 6am and a shotgun start at 7am.

Cash prizes await the top placers in the one-day tournament. First place takes home $500, second $400, third $300, fourth $200, and fifth $100. Consolation prizes will be awarded to the 6th to 10th placers. Eleventh to 15th place will also not go home empty-handed.

Aside from prizes to the Top 15 finishers, the Saipan Rotary Club said a total of $30,000 in cash prizes await lucky hole-in-one winners.

Hole-in-one winners in the 3rd, 13th, and 17th holes on the west course of the Kagman golf facility will each receive $10,000 in cash.

Shell Marianas is sponsoring hole No. 3, which is a par-3, 189-yard hole. The hole-in-one prize on the par-3 158-yard hole No. 13 will come from First Hawaiian Bank, while the third hole-in-one prize on the par-3, 180-yard No. 17 is sponsored by AON Insurance.

A special prize also awaits the winner of the closest to the pin contest on the par-3, 160-yard hole No. 7.

The awards banquet for the 2008 District Governor's Charity Golf Tournament will be held at the "The Range" with organizers giving raffle prizes to participants.

Part of the proceeds from the tournament will go to the Kagman Community Children's Park.

Golfers wishing to compete in tomorrow's tournament must pay the $100 entrance fee. Entry forms should be returned to Babauta before the start of the tournament.

For more information about the 2008 District Governor's Charity Golf Tournament, contact Babauta at 236-2563 or 483-2563. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Tugade shines in two overtime periods as SMB outlasts Air21

MANILA, Philippines—Lordy Tugade made four free throws in the second overtime as the San Miguel Beermen subdued the Air Express, 130-129, at the Araneta Coliseum Wednesday night after nearly losing control of the game in the fourth quarter.

Dondon Hontiveros scatterd 25 points on 9-of-15 shooting, Dorian Pena had 22 and 11 rebounds and Jay Washington added 19 and 13 boards for the Beermen who won five of their last six games and improved to a 6-2 (win-loss) record that propelled them back to the solo lead in the KFC PBA Philippine Cup eliminations.

"I'm glad the players managed to hung in there, but we need to learn from our mistakes. We can't take (our mistakes) for granted," said SMB coach Siot Tanquingcen, adding he had mixed emotions on the outcome of the game.

The game appeared to be lopsided by the time SMB erected a 19-point lead with 9:14 left in the regulation but the Beermen melted down offensively, allowing Air 21 to get back in the game and make it an exciting finish.

Their second straight loss and fifth overall in nine games was a bitter pill to swallow for the Express, no thanks to a controversy near the end of the first overtime period.

San Miguel Beer 130 – Hontiveros 25, Pena 22, Washington 19, Custodio 17, Tugade 15, Racela 15, Gonzales 8, Bono 7, Villanueva 2, Pingris 0, Pennisi 0.

Air21 129 – David 36, Arboleda 23, Santos 15, Se 15, Quinahan 12, Intal 7, Canaleta 7, Cruz 6, De Ocampo 5, Kramer 3, Sta. Maria 0, Billones 0.

Quarterscores: 26-21, 53-38, 84-71, 110-110, 130-129. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

FIVE

From Page 28

Tsunami Saipan-Saipan Swim Club Dual Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Wong timed in at 33.39 seconds in the 50m breaststroke, eclipsing his own mark of 33.88 seconds which he posted on Feb. 1, 2008. Wong also set a new mark in the 17-18 age group which he himself recorded (34.95 seconds) on May 31, 2008.

The 17-year-old Wong swam in three other events during the one-day meet. He clocked in at 32.26 seconds in the 40m backstroke and 56.61 seconds in the 100m freestyle. In the 50m freestyle, Wong recorded 26.13 seconds, just a second behind Jonathan Sakovich's mark in the 17-18 age group.

Mister, meanwhile, finished third in the Mini Hell of the Marianas 50-kilometer warm-up race after clocking in at 1:46:35.

The former U.S. nationally ranked cyclist in the Junior Velodrome battled Guam's Jazy Garcia and Bobby Mandapat, who finished first and second with times of 1:44:47 and 1:45:02, respectively. A total of 49 competitors took part in the race held in ideal racing weather of cloudless skies.

Mamiko Berger, for her part, took home the Female Athlete of the Month award after taking part in a couple of half marathons last month.

Berger took part in the Nigata Japan Half Marathon last Oct. 11 and crossed the finish line in a blistering time of 1:36:52. She was the third female finisher of the race, a mere 20 seconds off the runner-up's pace. The event drew more than 200 participants.

A week later, Berger tackled the Banzai Half Marathon and came in second overall to Roadrunner Bunny Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel in a time of 1:35:29.

A pair of veterans from the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament were then named October student athletes of the month.

High-flying Jericho Cruz was adjudged Male Student Athlete of the Month after leading the weeklong tournament in scoring with a 23 points per game average, besting players from the medal-winning teams of Australia, Tahiti, and Guam.

Aside from his scoring prowess, the 6' forward also averaged 5.3 assists, 2.8 steals, and 6.2 rebounds for the CNMI Junior National Team, which finished sixth in the eight-team field following wins over Papua New Guinea and Palau.

Lia'mwar Rangamar also took home the Female Student Athlete of the Month award after averaging 12.7 points, 2.5 steals, 1.7 assists, and 6.0 rebounds per game for the CNMI Junior National Girls Team.

She saved her best for last, erupting for 31 points, hauling down 13 rebounds, and recording three steals in a win against Palau that helped the Commonwealth finish seventh out of eight in the women's field.

RECORD

From Page 28

Like the older girls division, only five participants are entered in the girls' 14-and-under with Negahr Rastguiy and Ilia Corella expected to compete for the title.

Sixteen players have signed up for the boys' 10-and-under with Carl Dela Cruz and Colin Ramsey the most promising.

Gabrielle Race and Adele Hudkins, meanwhile, headline the seven-player girls' 10-and-under age group.

The 2008 Fall Classic Junior Tennis Championships will be held on Veteran's Day Weekend—Nov. 8, 9, and 11.

The tournament will adopt a Compass Draw format, where each competitor is afforded the opportunity to play the same number of matches whether they win or lose. This results in every player but one in each event set to win at least one match and the last match will be between two players with similar skill set and ability.

As this is the first event in several months, Race said that matches played will be one "pro-set" to eight games in the 18 and 14 divisions, and one regular set to six games in the 10 and under.

This year's Fall Classic Junior Tennis Championships is sponsored by Tan Holdings Corp.

Last year, North Pacific veterans Ji Hoon Heo and Mayuko Arriola topped the boys' and girls' 18-and-under, while Jake Lee and Thea Minor took care of business in the 13-and-under category. The 9-and-under, meanwhile, saw Quentin Ramsey and Emily Jones take home the championships.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	4	1	.800	–
Toronto	3	1	.750	1/2
New York	2	2	.500	1 1/2
New Jersey	1	2	.333	2
Philadelphia	2	4	.333	2 1/2

Southeast Division

Atlanta	3	0	1.000	–
Orlando	3	2	.600	1
Miami	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Charlotte	1	3	.250	2 1/2
Washington	0	3	.000	3

Central Division

Detroit	4	0	1.000	–
Cleveland	3	2	.600	1 1/2
Milwaukee	3	2	.600	1 1/2
Chicago	2	3	.400	2 1/2
Indiana	1	2	.333	2 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	3	1	.750	–
Houston	3	2	.600	1/2
Dallas	2	2	.500	1
Memphis	2	3	.400	1 1/2
San Antonio	1	3	.250	2

Northwest Division

Utah	4	0	1.000	–
Portland	2	3	.400	2 1/2
Denver	1	3	.250	3
Minnesota	1	3	.250	3
Oklahoma City	1	3	.250	3

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	4	0	1.000	–
Phoenix	4	1	.800	1/2
Golden State	2	3	.400	2 1/2
Sacramento	1	4	.200	3 1/2
L.A. Clippers	0	5	.000	4 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 98, Philadelphia 88
Portland 101, Houston 99, OT

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	5	3	0	.625	168	150
N.Y. Jets	5	3	0	.625	208	187
Buffalo	5	3	0	.625	182	169
Miami	4	4	0	.500	171	163

South

Tennessee	8	0	0	1.000	199	103
Indianapolis	4	4	0	.500	167	177
Jacksonville	3	5	0	.375	160	172
Houston	3	5	0	.375	196	213

North

Pittsburgh	6	2	0	.750	178	116
Baltimore	5	3	0	.625	171	137
Cleveland	3	6	0	.333	172	194
Cincinnati	1	8	0	.111	125	236

West

Denver	5	4	0	.556	224	251
San Diego	3	5	0	.375	224	199
Oakland	2	6	0	.250	107	201
Kansas City	1	7	0	.125	126	223

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	7	1	0	.875	226	129
Washington	6	3	0	.667	171	168
Philadelphia	5	3	0	.625	220	144
Dallas	5	4	0	.556	216	219

South

Carolina	6	2	0	.750	174	127
Tampa Bay	6	3	0	.667	200	147
Atlanta	5	3	0	.625	177	154
New Orleans	4	4	0	.500	216	195

North

Chicago	5	3	0	.625	223	173
Green Bay	4	4	0	.500	210	178
Minnesota	4	4	0	.500	182	188
Detroit	0	8	0	.000	137	239

West

Arizona	5	3	0	.625	234	184
Seattle	2	6	0	.250	151	210
San Francisco	2	6	0	.250	171	230
St. Louis	2	6	0	.250	125	235

Yesterday's Game

Denver 34, Cleveland 30

DISNEY CLASSIC SCORES

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida (AP)–Scores Thursday from the Children's Miracle Network Classic, a $4.6 million (3.6 million euros) US PGA Tour event on two par-72 courses at Walt Disney Resort; 7,516-yard Magnolia Course and 7,010-yard Palm Course:

FIRST ROUND

Troy Matteson	31-32	63
Kevin Streelman	34-30	64
Scott Verplank	33-31	64
Jimmy Walker	31-33	64
Rich Beem	32-33	65
Robert Garrigus	34-31	65
Robert Gamez	32-33	65
Steve Marino	33-32	65
Kirk Triplett	33-32	65
Stewart Cink	35-31	66
Tom Pernice, Jr.	34-32	66
Davis Love III	33-33	66
Ken Duke	33-33	66
Robert Allenby	34-32	66
Zach Johnson	33-33	66
Tag Ridings	32-34	66
Jason Gore	34-32	66
Kevin Stadler	34-33	67
Tim Petrovic	35-32	67
J.J. Henry	33-34	67
Harrison Frazar	35-32	67
Jeff Overton	34-33	67
Mathias Gronberg	34-33	67
Omar Uresti	33-34	67
Steve Flesch	34-33	67
Cody Freeman	33-34	67
Todd Demsey	34-33	67
Patrick Sheehan	33-35	68
Tim Wilkinson	34-34	68
Joe Durant	34-34	68
John Rollins	35-33	68
Woody Austin	34-34	68
Boo Weekley	33-35	68
Carl Pettersson	35-33	68
Alejandro Canizares	31-37	68
Tommy Armour III	34-34	68
Fredrik Jacobson	34-34	68
Vaughn Taylor	36-32	68
John Riegger	34-34	68
Craig Kanada	33-35	68
Chris DiMarco	34-34	68
Cameron Beckman	34-34	68
Stephen Ames	34-34	68
Martin Laird	34-34	68
Charles Howell III	34-34	68
Bo Van Pelt	35-33	68
Will MacKenzie	34-34	68
Tommy Gainey	36-32	68
Y.E. Yang	33-35	68
Ted Purdy	33-36	69
Brett Rumford	34-35	69
Nick Watney	34-35	69
Carlos Franco	36-33	69
Tim Clark	34-35	69
Jin Park	34-35	69
J.P. Hayes	34-35	69
Lee Janzen	32-37	69
Tom Scherrer	35-34	69
Bob Sowards	35-34	69
Ron Whittaker	33-36	69
Michael Bradley	34-36	70
Brad Elder	38-32	70
Michael Allen	34-36	70
Brian Bateman	35-35	70
Bob Estes	35-35	70
Scott Sterling	36-34	70
Chris Stroud	36-34	70
Erik Compton	33-37	70
Dudley Hart	36-34	70
Matt Jones	36-34	70
Brett Quigley	36-34	70
Richard S. Johnson	35-35	70
Jesper Parnevik	34-36	70
Travis Perkins	35-35	70
Mark Hensby	34-37	71
Jim McGovern	37-34	71
Charles Warren	36-35	71
Brenden Pappas	38-33	71
Ryan Armour	35-36	71
Bubba Watson	35-36	71
Ryan Palmer	33-38	71
Shane Bertsch	36-35	71
Daniel Chopra	37-34	71
Bob Heintz	36-35	71
George McNeill	37-34	71
Justin Bolli	36-35	71
Nicholas Thompson	35-36	71
Jerry Kelly	36-35	71
Steve Elkington	35-36	71
Scott McCarron	37-34	71
Marc Turnesa	35-36	71
J.B. Holmes	37-34	71
David Lutterus	35-36	71
Heath Slocum	36-35	71
Bill Haas	34-38	72
James Driscoll	36-36	72
Jason Bohn	34-38	72
Brian Davis	37-35	72
Nick Flanagan	37-35	72
Jason Day	37-35	72
Cliff Kresge	38-34	72
Brad Faxon	36-36	72
Briny Baird	36-36	72
Kenneth Ferrie	32-40	72
Jon Mills	37-35	72
Eric Axley	34-38	72
Jason Allred	36-36	72
Kyle Thompson	37-35	72
John Huston	35-38	73
Kent Jones	38-35	73
Paul Claxton	38-35	73
Brian Gay	37-36	73
Bob Tway	38-35	73
Ryan Moore	36-37	73
Greg Kraft	39-34	73
Peter Lonard	38-35	73
Jeff Maggert	38-35	73
Brad Adamonis	39-35	74
Ben Crane	38-36	74
Steve Lowery	37-37	74
Dustin Johnson	35-39	74
Chad Collins	38-36	74
Frank Lickliter II	40-34	74
Fred Couples	37-38	75
Richard Johnson	39-36	75
Clint Avret	40-35	75
Jay Williamson	37-39	76
Alex Cejka	40-36	76

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roy sinks 3-pointer to give Blazers win

Brandon Roy made a 30-foot jumper as time expired in overtime to lift the Portland Trail Blazers to a thrilling 101-99 win over the Houston Rockets on Thursday night.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cutler rallies Broncos past Quinn, Browns

Jay Cutler turned Brady Quinn's big night into his own prime-time showcase. Cutler passed for a career-high 447 yards, throwing three touchdown passes in the fourth quarter.

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NMI East Asian Games bid thumbed down

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The CNMI's bid to take part in the East Asian Games was politely thumbed down last month by organizers of the quadrennial event, citing a 2000 decision that effectively barred the Commonwealth from participating in the Games.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael A. White delivered the unfortunate news Thursday night during the group's monthly meeting at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

White quoted a letter he received from East Asian Games Association president Pang Chung that stated: "According to the discussion and decision in the 35th OCA Executive Board Meeting on 27 August 2000, the East Asian Games are for the East Asia region and only countries from this particular region of Asia are allowed to participate in the Games. No other country outside of the East Asia Region should be invited after the Year 2000 to participate in the East Asian Games as an Associate Member."

The Oct. 9, 2008 dated letter went on to say that while Guam is an associate member of the group and takes part in the Games, the U.S. territory's membership predated the 2000 decision.

"The Guam National Olympic Committee joined EAGA before the Year 2000, its Associate Membership status in EAGA remains because of historic reasons," it said.

NMASA and White sought membership to EAGA after rising travel costs and the sluggish economy hindered the CNMI's ability to send delegations to the Pacific Games and Micronesian Games.

White

White then reasoned that the cost of traveling to Hong Kong and other East Asian countries was a lot lower than South Pacific countries, so if the CNMI became a part of the East Asian Games, this would have provided more opportunities for the Commonwealth's athletes to compete.

Other members of the East Asian Games are China, Japan, North and South Korea, Macau, Mongolia, and Chinese-Taipei.

Kazakhstan used to be a member of EAGA, but since it became a European Olympic Committee member, it does not take part in these Games anymore. Kazakhstan is now a member of Olympic Council of Asia and joins the Central Asian Games.

The East Asian Games like the Olympics and the Asian Games are held every four years. Its inaugural competition was held in 1993 in Shanghai, China with the host claiming the overall championship. Busan, South Korea hosted it in 1997 and Osaka, Japan in 2001.

The 2005 edition of the East Asian Games was held in Macau, while Tianjin, China will host the event in 2013.

Currently, 20 sports are included in the calendar of events in the East Asian Games. The list include athletics, aquatics, badminton, basketball, bowling, dancesport, dragon boat racing, field hockey, football, gymnastics, handball, judo, karatedo, rowing, shooting, soft tennis, taekwondo, lawn tennis, weightlifting, and wushu.

Soft tennis differs from regular tennis in that it uses soft rubber balls instead of hard yellow balls. It is played primarily in Asia, especially in Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and the Philippines.

Jericho sweeps Rotary MVP honors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Nationals high-flying forward Jericho Cruz shook hands with Rotary officials several times, as he went home with the most trophies during the awards ceremony in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Cruz claimed the highest individual honors in the 18-and-under league, as he was named most valuable player of the regular season.

The Marianas High School sophomore was the top scorer for the Junior Nationals in the regular season averaging more than 20 points per game. He led his team to a perfect 8-0 record in the regular season.

In the championship game between the CNMI Junior Nationals and Rollers I Thursday night, Cruz helped the former control the match early and finish with 20 points to lead his team to back-to-back Rotary titles.

The Junior National cruised to a 70-52 victory over Rollers I to defend the title they won over the Southern Sonics in 2007.

Cruz was later named Finals MVP and led the Rotary All-Selection Team of the 2008 season of the youth caging.

Joining Cruz on the elite group were teammates Marvin Rabauliman, the Sixers' Joe Ada and Ernest Duenas, Rollers I's Manny Matagolai, and Kontenders' Trevor Ogumoro.

Matagolai notched his second trophy when we was named scoring champion.

The Sixers took home the third place trophy, beating the G-Stars in the consolation match, 65-53.

The G-Stars went home with two trophies, claiming the fourth place plum and the sportsmanship award.

Nine teams competed in this year's Rotary caging.

Completing the list were the Chalan Kanoa Saints, Kagman Suns, and Rollers II, which was the first team to be eliminated in the league.

The Saints bowed to the Sixers in the quarterfinals, allowing the latter to set up a semis duel with Rollers I, which defeated the G-Stars.

Rollers I, which was seeded third in the playoffs, pulled off a 73-71 upset over the Sixers in the semifinals, to advance to the title match.

The Junior Nationals were paired with the Sonics in the quarterfinals, won the match and went on to earn a return trip to the finals after whipping the G-Stars, 64-53, in the semis.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CNMI Junior Nationals' Jericho Cruz receives one of two MVP trophies he won in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League from Rotarian Nel Matanguihan Thursday night.

Five named NMASA athletes of the month

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Two basketball players, a swimmer, a triathlete, and a cyclist were hailed as athletes of the month for October in voting Thursday night by the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association.

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Rezne Wong and Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation's Tyce Mister shared Male Athlete of the Month citation following swash-buckling performances last October.

Wong shattered the CNMI National Record in the 50m breaststroke swim during the

See FIVE on Page 27

Record number sign up for Fall Classic

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tennis is pretty much alive in the CNMI and proof of this is the record number of entrants to this weekend's 2008 Fall Classic Junior Tennis Championships.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association vice president and longtime CNMI national tennis coach Jeff Race is overjoyed with the turnout for this year's youth competition.

"We have 62 entrants. A new CNMI record for a junior-only event!" he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

A total of nine players will duke it out in the boys' 18-and-under singles led by Tinian tennis sensation Benjie Decena. Brothers Andy and Nathan Nutting are also entered in the age group.

The girls' 18-and-under, meanwhile, will only have five players bannered by Pacific Oceania Junior Championships veterans Thea Minor and Theecel Minor.

The boys' 14-and-under has the most number of sign-ups with a total of 20 entries. Favored in the age group are POJC teammates Rafael Jones and Christian Miller. Out to spoil their finals aspirations are Chris Cajigan, Angelo Jones, and Jake Lee.

See RECORD on Page 27